

# DN disabilitynow

the campaigning newspaper that puts you in the picture

£1.80 May 2004 • established 1984

## House on hold

DN EXCLUSIVE BY LUCY GLYNN

The UK's first disabled people's parliament could end up being scrapped, after just one introductory session.

The British Council of Disabled People (BCODP) received European Year of Disabled People and Comic Relief funding to set up and run the United Kingdom Disabled People's Parliament (UKDPP).

But BCODP spent over £119,000 on the project and held only one parliamentary session last October. Now the parliament is "on hold" while BCODP tries to secure further funding.

Disabled people have told DN they are worried about the parliament's set-up and lack of influence.

UKDPP steering group member Stephen Brooks said: "The funding that was given

was very tokenistic. It was given to BCODP and how many organisations does BCODP really truly represent?"

Disability rights campaigner Simone Aspis, who resigned from the parliament, said: "What a waste of money. It used up all that money on what? Even if it was truly representative it has no clout. There's no point."

Another member, Denis Shovlin, was concerned that members had to be self-appointed, because there was not enough money for elections, and also had to be BCODP members.

The parliament has less than half the members it had hoped for – only 70 instead of 180.

Mr Shovlin suggested disabled people from non-member groups, such as the big seven charities, should now be included.

"I am very worried about

how it's going. It's embarrassing. Non-disabled people will think we are incompetent," he said.

But Andy Rickell, outgoing chief executive of BCODP, who championed the parliament, said it was a "good use of money".

"It achieved some of our objectives. We got a lot of media coverage, but if we had more money we could have done a lot better."

He admitted it would be good if the parliament attracted a wider group of disabled people, but said nothing more would happen unless it received extra funding.

The situation is further clouded because BCODP is "holding off" from appointing a new chief executive to replace Mr Rickell while it reviews its overall strategy.

In the meantime, Polly Smith will oversee the organisation as acting chair.



DEREK WRIGHT

## Crackdown on eggs

Disabled care home residents have appealed to the government for the right to eat soft-boiled eggs.

Staff at Corben Lodge in Portsmouth are not allowed to serve soft-cooked eggs due to risks from salmonella poisoning.

But resident Angela James (above) said: "We all think it is wrong and we should have the choice to have soft-boiled eggs. Other people can have their eggs any way they choose. We can't."

Portsmouth social services said the 2002 ban was based on Food Standards Agency (FSA)

advice. Previously, residents were allowed to eat soft-boiled eggs if they signed a disclaimer absolving the council of any responsibility if they fell ill.

Residents asked Portsmouth Disability Forum to help after months of protests failed to secure a U-turn. The forum has now written to the government.

The FSA said soft-boiled eggs should not be served to vulnerable groups such as older people but that this advice did not apply to disabled people.

The council will ask the government for further guidance.

**The Volker 3080,  
now available as a double.**



- Fully height adjustable (35 - 70 cm)
- Four section profiling lying surface
- Electronic retractable wheels
- Trendelenberg / Anti Trendelenberg available

**BaKare**

01752 512222  
www.bakare.co.uk

On the cover: Jeff Jones at the seaside as part of Bridgend People First and Valley and Vale Community Arts' touring photography exhibition, which shows the dreams of people with learning difficulties. Picture by Alison McGann. [www.bridgendpeoplefirst.co.uk](http://www.bridgendpeoplefirst.co.uk)

### DN CAMPAIGN

## Tougher abuse sentences

The government is set to introduce tougher sentences for some people who abuse vulnerable adults, thanks to DN's Justice for Survivors campaign.

Lord Filkin, the constitutional affairs minister, has signalled that the government is looking to increase the maximum sentence for ill-treatment and neglect under the proposed Mental Incapacity Bill from two to five years.

Although this new offence would only apply to certain carers and care workers, it would also be "arrestable", ensuring a

higher profile and giving police officers extra powers, another key demand of our campaign.

A government spokeswoman said the change was suggested after DN raised the issue with the minister at a press briefing.

Despite the welcome move, DN still wants the maximum sentence to be increased to ten years, through offences in both its forthcoming mental health and mental incapacity bills.

DN and the charity Turning Point were due to discuss the issue with officials from the departments of health and con-

stitutional affairs in April.

Meanwhile, the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) is set to discuss if it should offer advice to police forces, after hearing how the DN campaign prompted the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) to reconsider charging a care worker over the death of a severely disabled man in a spa bath.

Greater Manchester Police resubmitted its file to the CPS after admitting it was originally unaware of possible offences of ill-treatment and neglect under the Mental Health Act.



# Contents

## Features

- Profile 14  
 – Andy Rickell – Scope's executive director for diversity and corporate planning  
 Word on the Street 21  
 – The Alison Lapper debate  
 Gardening 23-27  
 – Healing and inclusive gardens, the Chelsea Flower Show and top tips  
 My job 32  
 – Judi Spencer-Scott, childcare worker  
 Out of hours 37  
 – Jenepher Quinn, artist

## Regulars

- Comment 17  
 Letters to the editor 18  
 Parent's voice 28  
 Arts 30-31  
 Bright ideas 34  
 Share your problems 36  
 Take a break 38  
 Information 39-41  
 Classified 42-36  
 Up for grabs 47

Pg 16



## News

- Top stories 1-11  
 Health news 12  
 Sport 16  
 News Focus 15  
 – Helpline problems at the DRC

Pg 23


[www.disabilitynow.org.uk](http://www.disabilitynow.org.uk)

## Quality vehicles for wheelchair users

### Safety in numbers

To ensure the quality and safety of each and every one of its vehicle conversions, Constables has set a number of additional standards over and above the minimum legal requirements.

A dozen more good reasons to buy a Constables Vehicle.



Constables Kangoo

ISO 9001:2000 Design and Manufacture

Low Volume Type Approval Vehicle (LVTA)

Conformity of build procedures

Renault Accord Technique

Certified Pull tested seating

Certified Pull tested wheelchair fixings

Certified Pull tested wheelchair occupant Seat belt

Off the shelf spares backup

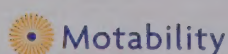
Membership of Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle Converters Association (WAVCA)

Conforms to WAVCA code of practice

Your Deposit held in a separate &amp; secure Client account

Conforms to Motability WAV standard

When you buy a vehicle converted for wheelchair access, you can count on Constables.



\*This is a trademark of Motability:  
 registered charity number 299745

Constables Limited, Mountney Bridge Business Park,  
 Westham, Pevensey, East Sussex BN24 5NJ  
 T: 01323 76 75 74 F: 01323 767603  
 E: [info@constablesmotability.com](mailto:info@constablesmotability.com)

[WWW.constablesmotability.com](http://WWW.constablesmotability.com)



Constables  
 mobility™

## disabilitynow

**Published by Scope**  
**Editor** Mary Wilkinson

### editorial

**News Editor** John Pring  
**Reporters** Nuala Calvi and Lucy Glynn  
**Layout Sub** David Felton  
**Editorial Assistant** Lucy Howard  
**Design/Production Editor** Jamie Trounce

### address

Disability Now, 6 Market Road  
 London N7 9PW  
**Editorial:** 020 7619 7323  
 Fax: 020 7619 7331  
 Minicom: 020 7619 7332  
 e-mail: [editor@disabilitynow.org.uk](mailto:editor@disabilitynow.org.uk)

### advertising

**Advertising Manager**  
 Richard Gresham  
 Tel: 020 7619 7336  
 e-mail: [richard.gresham@scope.org.uk](mailto:richard.gresham@scope.org.uk)  
**Sales Executive**  
 Patrick Durham-Matthews  
 Tel: 020 7619 7320  
 e-mail: [patrick.durhammatthews@scope.org.uk](mailto:patrick.durhammatthews@scope.org.uk)  
**Sales Administrative Assistant** Suzan Hillman  
 Tel: 020 7619 7120  
 Fax: 020 7619 7331

### marketing

**Marketing Manager**  
 Juliana Udueze  
**Marketing Executive**  
 Elizabeth Cowley

### subscriptions

Customer Interface, Cary Court,  
 Bancombe Trading Estate,  
 Somerton, Somerset TA11 6TB  
 Tel: 0845 120 7001  
 e-mail: [dnsubs@cisubs.co.uk](mailto:dnsubs@cisubs.co.uk)

### printing

Voluntary Sector Services,  
 Centurion Press Ltd,  
 Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire,  
 Tel: 01923 891000

### newstand distribution

If you have any problems obtaining a copy of DN through your newsagent or supermarket, please call Heidi Bush at MMC on 01483 211222 or email [heidi.bush@mmcltd.co.uk](mailto:heidi.bush@mmcltd.co.uk)

### alternative formats

**Disability Now** is also available on cassette, disk or via e-mail from Talking Newspapers Enterprises Ltd. For orders or queries, tel: 01435 862737. ISSN 0958-4676

The views expressed in *Disability Now* are not necessarily those of Scope.

Copyright © 2004 Scope

No material may be reproduced, amended or published, in any format, without the prior permission of the Editor.

While we strive to maintain the highest standards in reproduction, Disability Now cannot be held responsible for picture quality.

ABC 19,350 PPA  
 1/7/02 - 30/6/03



# Met officers in bullying claim

Disabled officers in the Metropolitan Police have been "bullied" by their managers, an inquiry into the force's employment procedures has heard.

The inquiry, chaired by former trades union boss Sir Bill Morris, heard that two disabled officers tried to kill themselves because of their treatment.

One officer, whose comments were passed to the inquiry, said: "Now I am disabled, my career is over. Despite having 25 years' experience, I am given a series of menial jobs far below my capabilities, and I am expected to be thankful."

Another said: "Becoming ill, it appears, gets you punished,

and the more you complain, the worse it gets."

Alan Robinson, chairman of the force's Disabled Staff Association, complained about a "macho" management culture, and said he was treated as a "malingeringer" because he did not have a visible disability, although there were some sympathetic managers.

The association told DN earlier this year that hundreds of officers could have a case under the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA), when its employment duties are extended to cover police officers in October.

Assistant Commissioner Bernard Hogan-Howe earlier

told the inquiry the force could have been "more adventurous" in the way it dealt with disabled officers. He said the force was improving, tried to deploy officers "according to their ability" and now "resorted to things like medical pensions" only as a final resort.

Meanwhile, a Disability Rights Commission report\* on readiness in the police, fire and prison services for the new DDA duties found a lack of understanding of disability.

It called for staff networks for disabled officers and improved communication and training.

\*[www.drc-gb.org/businessand-services/employment.asp](http://www.drc-gb.org/businessand-services/employment.asp)



## Web owners warned

The Disability Rights Commission (DRC) has warned website owners to improve access or expect to be taken to court.

The warning came as it published the results of a 12-month investigation into web accessibility, which shows disabled people are excluded from government, business, e-commerce, entertainment websites and search engines.

Of 1,000 websites, more than 80 per cent failed to reach the minimum accessibility standard.

DRC chairman Bert Massie said they weren't afraid to take websites to court and the research should be a "wake up call" to industry. "Potentially, almost every website in this

country could be liable," he said, although he did not want to "name and shame" offenders.

The research showed that certain groups of disabled people have problems with complex layout and design of web pages.

The DRC revealed that blind people have most problems because images are not labelled properly, which causes problems with text reader software. It called for better access guidelines and for web designers to work with disabled people.

DRC commissioner Michael Burton said the government should make web owners more aware of their responsibilities under disability discrimination law and suggested a web developers accreditation scheme.

### DN CAMPAIGN

## Project launched to end media gaffs

DN has joined forces with the National Union of Journalists in a ground-breaking new project to stamp out misrepresentation of disabled people in the media.

The initiative will create a definitive guide to reporting on disability, which the NUJ hopes will become an industry standard alongside other codes of

conduct for journalists.

It is likely to take the form of a leaflet including a list of acceptable terminology for different impairments, as well as tips about the kinds of stories which perpetuate stereotypes and contacts for organisations run by disabled people.

The project is part of DN's

Hacked Off campaign to get more disabled journalists into the media and improve reporting on disability.

The campaign is also backed by the Broadcast Journalism Training Council, the National Council for the Training of Journalists, and Minister for Disabled People Maria Eagle.

### In brief

#### Massie reappointed

Bert Massie, the first chairman of the Disability Rights Commission, has been reappointed to the post.

The government has also reappointed John Hougham, Jane Campbell, Dr Kevin Fitzpatrick and Elaine Noad as commissioners, and appointed a new commissioner, Stephen Alambritis, of the Federation of Small Businesses.

#### Sense prevails

The European Parliament has recognised deafblindness as a distinct disability, after a campaign led by charity Sense.

Sense hopes European Union campaigners can use the parliament's declaration to win rights in their own countries.

It was only the seventh time the European Parliament has passed a written declaration in the last five years. [www.sense.org.uk](http://www.sense.org.uk)



## Here to help you

The Learning Disability Helpline

A free, confidential advice and information service for people with a learning disability, parents, carers and professionals.

**Freephone 0808 808 1111**

Fax: 020 7608 3254

Textphone: 0808 808 8181

Email: [help@mencap.org.uk](mailto:help@mencap.org.uk)

**MENCAP**  
Understanding learning disability

**(DH)** Department of Health

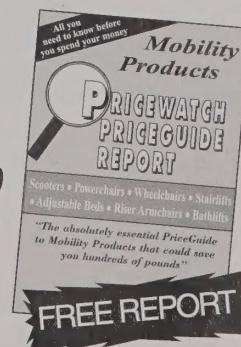
LOOK! AMAZING NEW PRICEGUIDE EXPOSES HUGE PRICE DIFFERENCES

**ARE YOU ABOUT TO PAY FAR TOO MUCH FOR A SCOOTER, POWERCHAIR, STAIRLIFT, BATHLIFT, RISER ARMCHAIR, BED OR OTHER MOBILITY PRODUCT?**

**"No-one should even consider buying a mobility product until they have read this remarkably revealing report and have compared prices"**

You could end up saving hundreds of pounds with this Brand New Pricewatch PriceGuide from Mobility Matters, a group of independent showroom based distributors.

Incredibly, prices vary substantially depending on where and how you buy and alarmingly, you could end up



paying £100's more for exactly the same product. Don't make the mistake of paying way over the odds unnecessarily.

The new PriceGuide explains what to look out for and provides you with realistic price ranges so you are less likely to get caught out. It's free and it's invaluable.

Call now and your local distributor will send you a copy of the priceguide to help you before you commit yourself.

**Call the 24hour request line now on 08705 134130**

or write to Mobility Matters, Dept DN504, Freepost NH0170, Kettering, NN14 1BR

**MOBILITY MATTERS NETWORK**



## DN CAMPAIGN



Sainsbury's, Balham: Bays are for parents and blue badge holders

## Mum's the word at Sainsbury's

Supermarket giant Sainsbury's has been criticised for allowing parents with babies to use most of the spaces reserved for disabled shoppers.

At its store in Balham, London, currently being expanded, all the spaces around the store entrance are marked for parents or for parents and people with blue badges.

Just a handful of spaces are reserved solely for blue badge holders, and they are located furthest from the entrance to the store, in Balham High Road.

A Sainsbury's spokesman said customers had raised concerns about the issue. "We are proac-

tively looking at an alternative. We want to provide the best for all our customers," he said.

Meanwhile, there have been 5,000 nominations for the first Baywatch awards.

A shortlist of winners in three sections – best larger supermarket, best smaller supermarket and best employee in connection with disability parking – has been selected and is being independently assessed.

The winners, including the best supermarket chain, will be announced at a ceremony in London on 14 July, sponsored by RAC.

## DN CAMPAIGN



# Cold shoulder

Labour ministers seem too busy to discuss extending the winter fuel payment to severely disabled adults and children.

The DN survey, now 2,800 strong, shows that families with a severely disabled child have extra fuel costs too, so DN editor Mary Wilkinson asked for a meeting with Margaret Hodge, Minister for Children. The group was to include Roger Berry MP, Lorna Reith, chief executive of Disability Alliance, and a parent.

After repeated phone calls

starting before Christmas, and a letter sent in February, Ms Wilkinson was told at the end of March that her request had been passed to Malcolm Wicks, minister responsible for winter fuel payments.

The reply added: "Unfortunately because of Parliamentary business commitments Mr Wicks will not be able to meet with you at this time."

Ms Reith said: "We wanted to talk about the needs of families with a severely disabled child and their extra fuel costs,

and now the ministers don't seem to have time to meet us. It is disappointing, given the government's commitment to ending child poverty."

Last year, the government spent £1.76 billion on the winter fuel payment for all 11.5 million pensioners. The estimated cost for extending the payment to 1.27 million severely disabled adults and children is £254 million.

So far, 141 MPs have signed Roger Berry's motion, No 108, calling for the extension.

## Work quiz for partners

Labour's compulsory work-focused interview regime was extended last month, targeting partners of disabled people for the first time and introducing interviews for existing benefits claimants in four new areas.

People on Incapacity Benefit (IB) or Severe Disablement Allowance received letters informing them their partners must attend interviews with a jobcentre advisor or their benefits would "be reduced until they do attend".

The New Deal for Partners letters prompted worried readers to contact DN.

June Eaton, from West Yorkshire, said: "It felt quite threatening. If it was an offer, that would be fine, but it was a really horrible thing to get through your door."

Mrs Eaton was eventually told she should not have received the letter because her partner does not claim the IB dependency allowance.

But the Department for Work and Pensions said the letter was sent to everyone on the



Karen Carrahar (left), incapacity benefit personal advisor, Health Minister Rosie Winterton and Work Minister Des Browne, during a visit to Chelmsford to hear about its new Pathways to Work pilot

relevant benefits whose partners are out of work.

A spokeswoman said: "This is a general mail-out, not the interview letter. Not everyone who gets these letters will get an interview."

"The intension was not to shock or threaten, just to inform people."

The letter was also sent to people on Carer's Allowance, Job Seeker's Allowance and Income Support.

Meanwhile, Pathways to Work, a scheme of compulsory work-focused interviews for existing Incapacity Benefit claimants, was rolled out to East Lancashire, Somerset, Essex and Gateshead and South Tyneside on 1 April.

The voluntary scheme New Deal for Disabled People was also expanded, with new job broker contracts given to major organisations such as Shaw Trust until 2006.

## The Wheelchair Accessible



The Wheelchair Accessible  
Motor Co Ltd  
Unit 2 Forge Trading Estate  
Mucklow Hill  
Halesowen  
West Mids  
Tel: 0121 550 8844  
Fax: 0121 550 8855

- M** Renault Extra 1.3 petrol with rear fold down ramp, seats 3 plus wheelchair, 1 owner from new, immaculate condition for the year and has been fastidiously maintained. 33000 miles from new. Finished in bright red. **Only £3,299**
- M** Fiesta 1.3 Courier Chairman conversion with rear fold down ramp, seats 3 plus wheelchair. 32000 recorded miles, finished in lovely Burgundy red, interior as new! **Only £3,299**
- W** Daihatsu Hi-Jet, rear fold down ramp with electric winch. Seats 3 plus wheelchair. Finished in metallic blue, a practical and economic vehicle to own. 32000 miles. **Only £4,299**
- T** Suzuki Wagon R with rear wheelchair access converted by Jubilee, finished in silver metallic with 30000 recorded miles, 1 owner from new. Easy to park, easy to drive and cheap to run! **Only £5,499**
- W** Suzuki Wagon R with rear wheelchair access, with a genuine 5000 miles recorded. Finished in bright silver metallic. Take it from us – this vehicle's condition is like new! **Only £6,999**
- S** VW Transporter 1.9 TDI Automatic with rear fold down ramp and electric winch. Seats 4 plus wheelchair, with plenty of space for luggage and a brace of St Bernard dogs! Diesel economy, power steering and with only 30000 recorded miles – an absolute pleasure to drive! **Only £7,999**
- 02** Suzuki Wagon R 1.3 GL Automatic rear wheelchair access with 3 seats plus wheelchair, finished in silver metallic. Power steering, electric windows, central locking. Full service history with Main agent, last serviced 2004. This vehicle is in showroom condition. 5000 miles. **Only £9,999**
- R** Ford Galaxy 1.9 TDI GLX manual with rear wheelchair access converted by Brotherhood. Metallic green coachwork with aircon, power steering, electric windows, central locking. 1 owner from new and in superb condition. Seats 4 plus wheelchair in luxury and style! **Only £11,999**
- 03** Renault Kangoo 1.5 dCi Authentique. Rear wheelchair access vehicle with lowered floor. Power steering, remote central locking, ABS. Lovely condition with low mileage. **Only £12,499**
- 02** Chrysler Voyager 2.5 CRD LX, rear fold down ramp, seating for 4 plus wheelchair. This luxurious vehicle has full leather trim, aircon, CD player, full electrics pack and only 6000 miles! Absolute bargain at: **Only £21,999**

All vehicles sold with warranty and a full 12 months MOT (where applicable). Finance available and part exchanges more than welcome!

Wheelchair accessible vehicles always wanted for cash.

### AUTOCHAIR LITE

Automatic  
Wheelchair  
Carrier



Weights less than 40kg.  
Folds, lifts & stores manual wheelchairs.  
Fitting throughout the UK.  
Free home demonstrations.

CALL FREE ON 0800 214 045  
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

AUTOCHAIR

E-mail: [info@autochair.co.uk](mailto:info@autochair.co.uk) Website: [www.autochair.co.uk](http://www.autochair.co.uk)

### In brief

#### Appointments

The Stroke Association has appointed Jon Barrick, currently director of community services at RNIB, as its new chief executive. He has replaced Margaret Goose, who has retired after six years in the post.

Meanwhile, Reg McLaughlin, chief executive of GLAD, is leaving the organisation to set up his own consultancy business.



# Ofcom complaints

Plans for subtitling and audio description drawn up by new broadcasting regulator Ofcom "make a mockery" of government promises to dramatically increase access.

The warning was given to Ofcom chief executive Lord Carter in a letter from Lord Ashley, president of the Royal National Institute for Deaf People (RNID), in which he said he was "astounded" at plans not to set yearly targets for the services.

Disability charities and the Disability Rights Commission have told the regulator its proposals for a ten per cent subtitling target over one year but no further targets for five years

are not good enough.

Mark Morris, of the RNID, said: "The previous regulator, the ITC, used to set yearly increasing targets and there was a clear suggestion from ministers that this would occur under Ofcom. But it seems Ofcom have just decided to do their own thing, which is very disappointing."

An early day motion warning that Ofcom risks going against the will of parliament has been signed by 60 MPs.

It calls for demanding yearly targets for subtitling provision and for the watchdog to regulate a "significantly greater number of channels".

Ofcom's draft access code

excludes 75 per cent of licensed channels.

Campaigners also said broadcasters should not be able to count repeats towards the totals.

An Ofcom spokeswoman said: "We're aware of the concerns expressed by the disability groups and although we can't promise we will set annual targets we will consider the arguments very carefully and look again both at the timing and level of interim targets."

Meanwhile, the first chair of Ofcom's Advisory Committee on Older and Disabled People has been appointed. Mike Whitlam is former chief executive of RNID and heads the VISION 2020 campaign.

## Council sued over sex abuse

The family of a man with Down's syndrome who was allegedly sexually abused for three years by his care worker are suing their local council in a potentially groundbreaking legal action.

It is set to be the first time a case of abuse involving a person with a learning difficulty has reached a trial at the High Court and so could set a precedent for the amount of compensation such victims can expect.

A criminal investigation was dropped because the victim has

poor communication skills, according to his lawyers.

The man, who is in his forties, was one of four disabled people who claimed they were sexually abused at the care home in Wiltshire.

An inquiry by Wiltshire County Council led to the care worker's dismissal in 1999. The decision was upheld at appeal.

The alleged victim's solicitor, Paul Middleton-Roy, of Stewarts, London, said: "It is astonishing that having survived this horrendous abuse,

the council insists on the claimant proving all over again what happened to him, rather than relying upon the council's own investigation and findings.

"This has only served to cause further trauma and distress to the family and to strengthen their resolve to see justice done."

The council confirmed it had fired the care worker, but could not comment further as the case was ongoing.

The case was adjourned last month until September.

## Improvement drive continues

Motability has introduced two further improvements to its car scheme for disabled people.

It has extended mileage allowances for contract hire vehicles to 45,000 miles over three years for all customers.

Previously, only new customers benefitted from the higher rates, while existing customers had a 38,000 mile allowance.

It has also halved excess mileage charges to 5p per mile.

The changes are the latest in a series introduced by the charity in the last 18 months.

In the first three months of 2004, the number of customers joining the scheme was 15 per cent more than in 2003.

Don Brereton, director of Motability, said: "In making these changes, we have listened closely to what our customers are telling us, and the growing numbers suggest that people increasingly like what they find."

[www.motability.co.uk](http://www.motability.co.uk)

Safesides



AVOID ENTRAPMENT  
*keep your clients safe*

- Safe and comfortable cushioning.
- Inflatable all around protection against injury.
- Use for respite care/holidays.



**Genie Care**  
safety and care in bed

Call Genie Care **NOW** for a **FREE** demonstration

Tel: 01903 733377 Fax: 01903 734368 [www.geniecare.com](http://www.geniecare.com)  
ISO9001 Registered. Member BHTA



Flight of fancy: the Aviation for Paraplegics and Tetraplegics Trust (APT) celebrated its tenth anniversary at Old Sarum Airfield, Wiltshire, last month. Pictured in an adapted Microflight aircraft is APT member Jonathan Rudge, who learned to fly with the charity. For more on APT's scholarships see [www.av-para-tetra.demon.co.uk](http://www.av-para-tetra.demon.co.uk)

## RNIB closes hotels

The country's largest charity for visually impaired people is closing its two remaining hotels and a rehabilitation centre and is set to announce further job cuts.

The Royal National Institute of the Blind (RNIB) has a financial deficit of £3 million for 2003/04 and the closures are part of its cost-cutting policy.

The RNIB's honorary treasurer David Gadbury has also resigned, but the charity said that is not connected to its financial problems.

Last year, the RNIB axed 100 jobs after revealing a £5 million deficit (DN Jan 2003).

Now the charity is closing Manor House rehabilitation centre in Torquay and its hotels in Blackpool and Eastbourne because it can't afford the extra £270,000 needed to run the hotels.

Jill Allen-King, a member of the RNIB's assembly, said the hotels are vital for many blind people who are wary of going away and said the RNIB will lose legacy income because of it.

A spokesman for the RNIB said it is also considering axing 60-70 posts but said there will be fewer redundancies as there are some vacant positions.

THE STANNAH POWERCHAIR

A real chair  
not a  
wheelchair.

Exclusive to Totally Active, the Stannah Powerchair rotates on the spot and negotiates sharp corners with ease, making it perfect inside even the smallest of homes.

- Adjustable arms and backrest
- Seat height adjustment for total comfort at desk or table
- All products are fully guaranteed and come with 365 days a year backup

**ALSO AVAILABLE: RANGE OF OUTDOOR POWERCHAIRS & PORTABLE SCOOTERS**



**CALL 0800 138 0764**  
EXT. 34  
[www.totallyactive.co.uk](http://www.totallyactive.co.uk)





TOTALLY  
*active*

Please send me a FREE brochure ☐ Please call to arrange my free, no obligation home demonstration ☐

Name

Address

Postcode  Tel.

Totally Active, Dept 34, FREEPOST, NAT10869, 32 The Avenue, Andover, Hants SP10 3ZY



# Dead wrong Threat of force



The Minister for Disabled People has defended her reasons for not wanting to expand the definition of disability in the new Disability Discrimination Bill.

In her evidence to the joint committee on the bill, Maria Eagle said she didn't think the definition of disability should be changed to ensure mental health problems are fully covered.

She also said it shouldn't include people who are discriminated against because they are associated with disabled people, or if they are perceived to be disabled.

"We do not want to see mas-

sive changes that introduce uncertainty into who is covered and who is not," she said.

On transport, the government said setting a deadline of 2025 for all trains to be accessible "strikes a balance between the needs of disabled people and the industry", but said it was delaying a final decision until after further consultation.

It came after Leonard Cheshire's John Knight (above) delivered a petition with a horse-drawn hearse to the government, calling for the date to be brought forward to 2017. Otherwise, he said, he could be dead before he can get on a train.

Force and detention could be more widely used on people with learning difficulties or mental health problems, under new government proposals.

The Department for Constitutional Affairs is considering scrapping the legal requirement that there must be a "risk of harm" to a person to justify using force on them.

The proposals for the Mental Incapacity Bill would, for example, allow a learning disabled person to be held down against their wishes for a routine dental

check-up, if it was believed to be in their "best interest".

Currently, permission would have to be sought from the courts to do so.

Gavin Owen, policy and campaigns officer at the National Autistic Society, said he was "very concerned" the proposals would lead to powers being misused, with no chance for appeal.

He told DN: "It's got to be very clear that force and restraint can only be used in the most limited of circumstances."

The government is also considering adding third party safeguards to the bill, similar to those under mental health legislation. The third party would make decisions on issues like whether to give life-sustaining treatment where a person's wishes are unclear or there are no relatives around.

The charity Turning Point welcomed the extension of the safeguard but expressed concern that it had been watered down from the government's mental health bill proposals.

## Too few on public bodies

Too few disabled people take up public appointments, but a new booklet aims to give them the information and confidence to apply.

Over 800 public bodies spend a total of £20 billion of taxpayers' money a year, yet in 2002-3, only 2.7 per cent of public appointees declared a disability and applications by disabled people were just as low.

"I want to see Boards that reflect the communities they serve," said Dame Rennie Fritchie, commissioner for public appointments. "That is why we need more disabled people to look at these opportunities and think 'I could do that'."

The booklet\*, backed by Maria Eagle, Minister for Disabled People, and James Strachan, chair of the Audit Commission, who is deaf, was recommended by Dame Rennie's disability working group, which reported in January.



Time to get a slice of the cake: (from left) Sir William Wells, chair of the NHS Appointments Commission; Dame Rennie Fritchie; Julie Charles, chief executive of Equalities; and James Strachan

Written in an accessible way, it explains why disabled people should apply for public appointments, what qualities they need and how the application process works, with contributions from 17 disabled appointees.

Margaret Simpson, from

Melrose, said: "Involvement offers the chance to give back to the community and gain a real sense of self-worth. I did."

\*Disability: Public Appointments and You is available in print, large print, Braille and audio, free, tel: 020 7276 2625 or see [www.ocpa.gov.uk](http://www.ocpa.gov.uk)

### Scooter Trailer

Suddenly large scooters and small cars can go together

Soft suspension for a gentle, 'road hugging' ride for the scooter.



Wheels at rear for a good 'nose weight' on the car and ease of movement when off the car.

SIDE LOADING



REAR LOADING

where could your scooter take you?

We also manufacture the **Chairack**. The well known manual wheelchair carrier that enables you to load and secure a wheelchair on a car tow-bar, yet eliminates most of the need to lift the wheelchair.

**Delcane Limited,**  
East Harling, Norfolk NR16 2NF. Tel:- 01953 717557.  
[www.delcane.co.uk](http://www.delcane.co.uk) E-mail: [mike@delcane.co.uk](mailto:mike@delcane.co.uk)

## Mistakes in half of all DLA decisions

Campaigners have called for better training for Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) benefits staff, after MPs found nearly half of Disability Living Allowance decisions contained mistakes\*.

Edward Leigh MP, chairman of the committee for public accounts, said the number of errors on DLA and other benefits was "astounding" and "unacceptable".

Lorna Reith, chief executive of Disability Alliance, backed his call for better staff training, and said the DWP should also talk more to customers and learn from tribunal appeals in which decisions are overturned.

In a second report\*\*, the committee found a "welcome improvement" in medical assessments of eligibility for disability benefits.

Mr Leigh said the backlog of 368,000 examinations for incapacity benefit had been eliminated since 2001, and cases were being processed more quickly.

But he said the DWP must provide regular feedback to doctors and decision-makers on the outcome of appeals.

\**Getting it Right, Putting it Right*; \*\**Progress in improving the medical assessment of incapacity and disability benefits* [www.parliament.uk/parliamentary\\_committees/parliamentary\\_committees16.cfm](http://www.parliament.uk/parliamentary_committees/parliamentary_committees16.cfm)

### In brief

#### Skills on the net

A new web-based service\* aims to advertise the skills, services and products that disabled people have to offer.

The Disabled Workers Co-operative has set up the online database with the help of a Community Fund grant.

It is free to use and registration is also free for disabled people and sheltered workshops and companies.

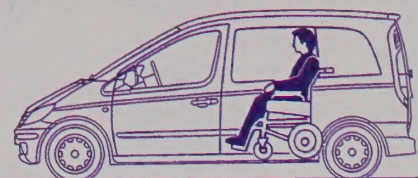
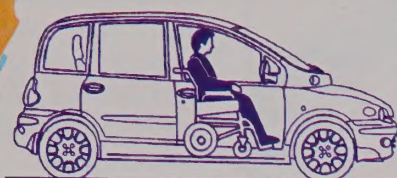
\*[www.disabledworkers.org.uk](http://www.disabledworkers.org.uk)

Due to factors beyond our control, this month's feature by our motoring correspondent will not be appearing as promised this month.



# From "factory to your home" The Brotherwood Network

provides transport for  
the wheelchair traveller



Beside the driver or with the family



Simple Loading

...now we have made it  
easier for you to choose

The Brotherwood Network  
covers the whole UK,  
enabling us to  
demonstrate our  
converted vehicles  
to **you at home**  
and assess  
your needs.

Gretna,  
Northern agent

Southport,  
Midlands agent

Cambridge,  
East Anglia agent

Factory at Beer Hackett

Quality  
conversions to  
choose from

**Volkswagen**  
Sharan

**Ford** Galaxy

**Seat** Alhambra

**Mercedes** Vaneo Klastar

**Fiat** Multipla "Side by Side"

**Citroen** Berlingo

**Peugeot** Partner

**Renault** Kangoo



Phone now for more details and availability.

Telephone: **01935 872603**

**BROTHERWOOD**  
AUTOMOBILITY LIMITED

Pillar Box Lane, Beer Hackett, Sherborne, Dorset. DT9 6QP

Fax: 01935 872853 • e-mail: sales@brotherwood.com



Visit our websites [www.brotherwood.com](http://www.brotherwood.com) or  
[www.brotherwood.co.uk](http://www.brotherwood.co.uk) for more information on  
our complete range of conversions and used sales list

NEW OR USED • SHORT & LONG TERM HIRE • FINANCE •  
AFTER SALES SERVICE • BUY-BACK SERVICE







# Long haul no go

DN EXCLUSIVE BY LUCY GLYNN

A blind man will still not be able to travel with his guide dog on long haul flights to the UK, despite winning his battle with the government.

Michael Osborn, from California, has travelled all over the world with Hastings but until last month the two couldn't travel to the UK because dogs had to be put in sealed crates for flights of more than five hours.

The UK government has now changed the law, but a govern-

ment spokeswoman said it was now up to airlines whether they allowed guide dogs in the cabin with passengers.

UK airlines are reluctant to do this because The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association (GDBA) recommends a maximum flight time of five hours, with an hour to check in and disembark.

A GDBA spokesman said: "We do have reservations about the length of time guide dogs should spend on flights."

But the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to

Animals and the International Association of Assistance Dog Partners both believe that guide dogs can travel for longer than this without any difficulties.

Mr Osborn said a healthy dog can go without nourishment for 24 hours using techniques to cut back on feeding prior to the flight.

He said: "Our challenge is to get airlines to allow guide dogs to travel in the cabin.

"Their current policies discriminate against disabled people," he added.

## End of the line LEAs still breaking the law

The only independent disability advice line for staff in post-16 education has been withdrawn due to lack of funding.

SKILL, the National Bureau for Students with Disabilities, will continue to offer advice to students, parents and assistants but not higher and further education practitioners, unless they are members.

Chief executive Barbara Waters said she feared the change would lead to colleges "guessing" how to fulfil their duties under the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA).

She called for the Learning

and Skills Council (LSC) and Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) to step in to replace the charity's lottery funding, which has now expired.

She said: "This will cut information services from people right at the forefront of delivering part four of the DDA, at a time when it is just having more of an impact."

HEFCE said it was unable to provide a grant to Skill but that it offers advice and guidance through its National Disability Team.

• News Focus, see page 15

Two thirds of local education authorities (LEAs) are breaking the law by failing to put information about special educational needs (SEN) on their websites, according to a new survey.

The study of 12 authorities by The Advisory Centre for Education (ACE) found many still lacked basic information about what support schools should be providing, despite a legal requirement to do so.

The charity said schools watchdog Ofsted was failing to pick up on the problem in its school reports and in some cases was praising such LEAs

for good communication.

It called for Ofsted to include LEA websites in the legal checks it carries out.

The survey also found much of the information on websites was written with schools in mind rather than parents, and was too full of jargon.

The results came a year after a similar study showed only 10 out of 150 councils in England were meeting their duties on providing information.

An ACE spokeswoman said: "This is particularly worrying given the emphasis in the Government's new SEN strate-

gy on reducing the number of children relying on statements of SEN for their extra help.

"If parents cannot tell what their child should legitimately get at School Action (the plans put into place when SEN are first identified), how can they be confident that their needs will be met?"

Ofsted said it was in the process of considering ACE's demands.

Meanwhile, a survey for the Society of IT Managers of 467 UK council websites found that half failed basic accessibility levels.

# Cyberbug

**Mobility Roadshow, Donington Park, 17-19 June 2004, Stand D31**

**Freedom Fun Style**

The stylish, battery-powered range of indoor/outdoor vehicles for children, teenagers and adults. Freedom, flexibility and unrivalled mobility.

This award-winning design, suitable for use in the home, on pavements and in parks and gardens, is transforming the lives of people with restricted mobility.

For a brochure pack, call: +44 (0)1423 543000 email: [lstbydesign@haredata.co.uk](mailto:lstbydesign@haredata.co.uk) or visit: [www.lstbydesign.co.uk](http://www.lstbydesign.co.uk)

**1st By Design Ltd**  
Hyde House, Victoria Avenue, Harrogate HG1 1DX, United Kingdom

## Low expectations on support

Younger disabled adults have low expectations about the support they need to live the life they choose, says a new report\*.

Disabled adults aged 18 to 64 had "mixed views" about the services they received, the report on social care in England in 2002-03 found.

But it said the number of disabled people in this age group being helped to live at home had increased, after being "relatively static" for three years.

It also said some disabled people had to wait "unacceptably long times" for special equipment and adaptations.

It was published by the Social Services Inspectorate (SSI), the SSI/Audit Commission joint review team and the National Care Standards Commission, which this month were replaced by the new Commission for Social Care Inspection.

\*All Our Lives, [www.dh.gov.uk/publications](http://www.dh.gov.uk/publications)

**BATTERIES FOR YOUR ELECTRIC WHEELCHAIR: SCOOTER: OR GOLF TROLLEY AT AFFORDABLE PRICES**

FAST FREE DELIVERY TO ANY WHERE IN THE UK WHILE STOCKS LAST  
GO TO: [WWW.MOBILITY-MART.COM](http://WWW.MOBILITY-MART.COM)  
OR CALL TONY ON 01295 810187



# News review

A round-up of news in the mainstream media from the last few weeks

## Signs banned

Channel 4's programme for deaf people, *VEE TV*, announced that it would not use traditional British Sign Language (BSL) gestures for Chinese (slanted eyes), Indian (spot on the forehead), Jewish (hooked nose) and homosexual (limp wrist) because it considered them to be offensive. BBC's *See Hear* also said it avoided using these signs.

The British Deaf Association was in favour of the move but the British Council of Disabled People said it was discriminatory because it interfered with many deaf people's first language without consulting them.

## Drug comeback

The drug Thalidomide, which was withdrawn in 1961 after babies born to mothers who took the drug had short limbs and other disabilities, is making a comeback 50 years after it was first introduced.

Around 4,000 people are now taking Thalidomide in the UK for the treatment of cancer and Aids. It is also used to treat leprosy in developing countries.

The campaign group Thalidomide UK said it should be used only as a last resort and under extremely strict guidelines.

## Prozac nation

Research showed that more than 80 per cent of GPs over-prescribe antidepressants because of the chronic shortage of counselling services.

The report by Norwich Union Healthcare revealed that six million people in the UK now take antidepressants including Prozac and Seroxat for conditions such as anxiety, depression and stress.

## Claim criticised

Doctors criticised the government's claim that the NHS is "winning the war" against coronary heart disease and that deaths resulting from the condition will become "very rare" in the next ten years. They said the claim ignored the "ticking time bombs" of adult obesity and growing inactivity among children.

# ME funding call

Campaigners have called on the government to provide £35 million to help find a cure for ME.

They say £35 million is just one per cent of the annual £3.5 billion cost of ME to the UK.

More than 100 people displayed their message on Westminster Bridge, outside the Houses of Parliament, in March.

It was written on a banner

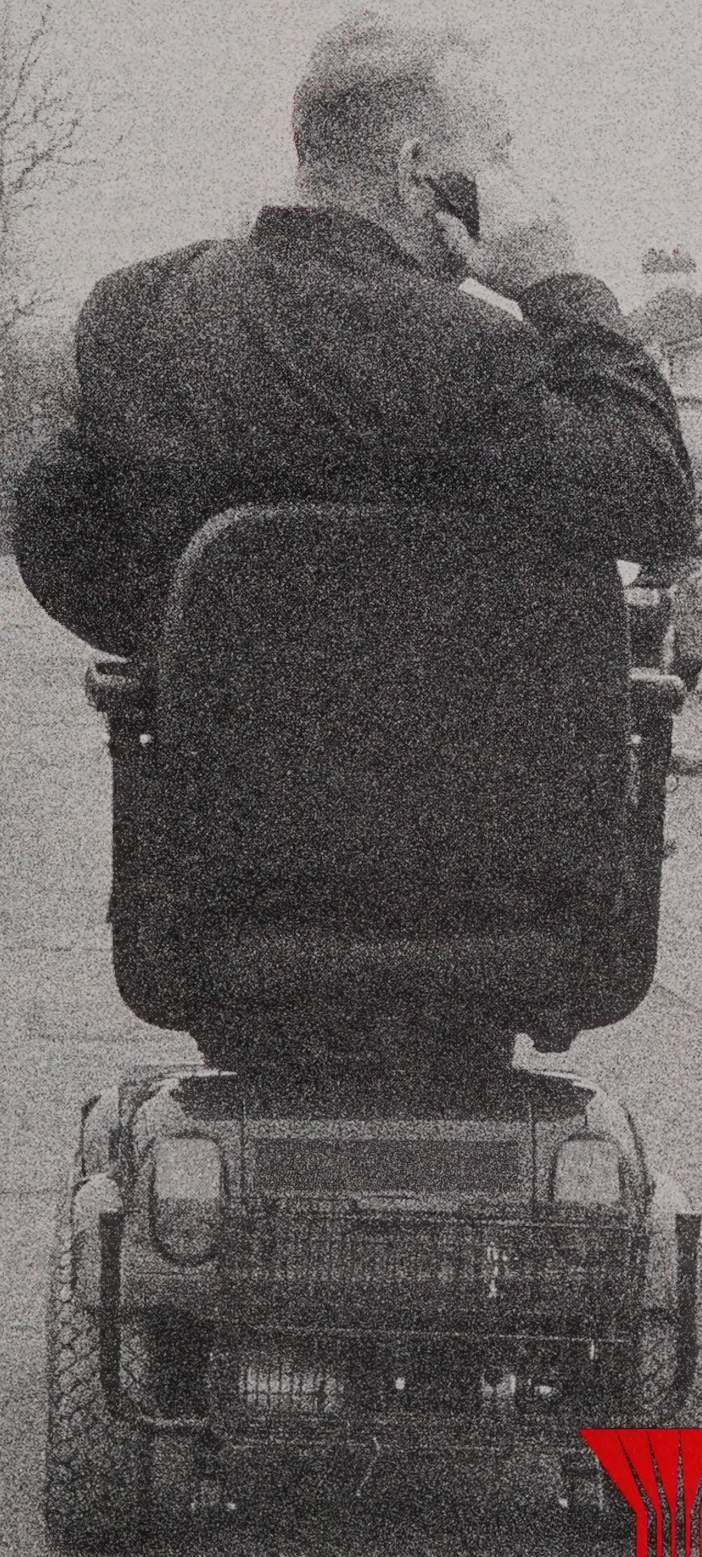
made from more than 5,000 postcards sent by people severely affected by ME and unable to attend the demonstration, organised by the charity Action for ME.

Anthony Wright, Labour MP for Great Yarmouth, will also present a petition signed by 28,000 supporters to parliament.



Cash stream: Protestors on Westminster Bridge in March

## You might get home with a flat tyre, but you won't get home with a flat battery!



With a flat battery you are going nowhere. Next time fit a Yuasa battery; take care of it and it will take care of you – for years!

So when it's time to fit a new battery; ask your supplier about Yuasa – Europe's No 1 cyclic battery.

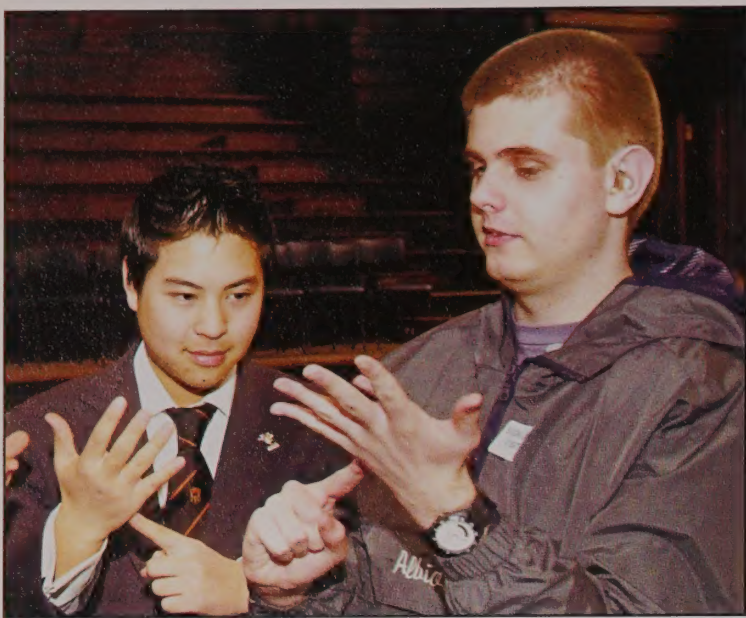
And if you want to know more about battery care ask us for a copy of Yuasa's 'Little Red Book of Batteries' – It's yours and it's free!



[www.yuasa-battery.co.uk](http://www.yuasa-battery.co.uk)

Tel: 01793 645700 Fax: 01793 645701





T for two: Scott Broadhouse (right), from the Royal Schools for the Deaf (RSD), teaches the sign for "T" to Daniel Liu Yin from Manchester Grammar School. RSD pupils have been teaching the students BSL to thank them for giving their sensory garden a makeover.

## Seaside loos shut

A disabled man and his wife will be forced to spend more time at home because the council is closing their local public toilets.

Southend Council planned to close all 26 of its toilets because of costs and the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA).

But following public pressure, the council said it would keep one toilet open permanently and eight would remain open during the summer.

DN reader David Barnes, from Folkstone, said: "It's ridiculous. It's a seaside resort. We will have to think twice about going out."

A council spokesman said: "A lot of investment is needed to bring the existing facilities up to DDA standards." But the Disability Rights Commission warned councils not to use the DDA as a "false alibi", as the law only calls for "reasonable" changes to be made.

# Hate crime is rife

Half of the disabled people in Scotland have been verbally or physically abused and intimidated because of their disability, according to the first ever in-depth survey of its kind.

The research, by the Disability Rights Commission (DRC) and Capability Scotland, found only 40 per cent report the crimes, because they believe the police can't help them.

The organisations are submitting the findings to a working group set up by the Scottish Executive to look at hate crime and are calling for a change in the law.

Longer sentences can already be given in England and Wales for crimes motivated by hatred of disability (DN February).

One respondent to the survey, whose neighbours threw stones at her house, shouted verbal abuse and vandalized her car, said: "The police don't know how to deal with it."

"I've only been on a short holiday once in the last six years, as I'm frightened what they'll do to the house. The council have told us to move house to get away from them."

Another said: "I was called a

Thunderbirds puppet in the supermarket – and what was worse, it was a mum saying it in front of her children. It takes your breath away – I just had to get out."

Euan Page, policy officer at DRC Scotland, said the government should launch a public awareness campaign tackling unacceptable prejudice.

He said better training was also needed for the police.

Meanwhile, the Association of Chief Police Officers Scotland is bringing in its first ever diversity strategy which includes disability.

## Black parents lack information

Black disabled children who could be in mainstream schools have ended up in special schools or have missed out on education altogether because of a lack of appropriate information for their parents.

A research project\* by the organisation Parents for Inclusion involving more than 200 families in south London found black and ethnic minority parents needed more informa-

tion about the support their children were entitled to at school.

A number of children who could have been educated in the mainstream were placed in special schools because their parents were unaware of how this could be done.

And it was "not uncommon" for black and minority ethnic disabled children of school age to be out of school completely.

One parent said: "I do not recall anyone ever really explaining to me what an Individual Education Plan was, or a Statement."

The report calls for parents to be given help with preparing for and speaking out at important meetings and to be provided with interpreters and accessible information.

\*All Our Children Belong, tel: 020 7735 7735

## CREATING NEW HORIZONS WITH INVATRAVEL



*As a long established company, Invatravel provide factory built people carriers, specially for the needs of the wheelchair traveller.*

Twin sliding doors as standard on all Caravelle models. Choices of lifts; underfloor to side or inboard to rear. Many new standard features on the SE Caravelle.

**New powerful, economical turbo diesel engines, 130 & 174bhp, 6-speed manual or 6-speed auto gearboxes. Also V6 240bhp petrol engine.**



## THE ALL NEW VOLKSWAGEN CARAVELLE



**INVATRAVEL**  
CONVERSIONS LTD

Established 1983

97 Lytham Road,  
Southport,  
Merseyside PR9 9UG

Telephone: 01704 506608

Fax: 01704 506607

E-mail: sales@invatravel.com

www.invatravel.com





# Disability taxed

Older disabled people are having to pay a "tax on disability" because of the way local authorities charge for home care, according to a new report\*.

The Age Concern England report, *Fair Enough*, found that, because most councils charge by the hour, the more disabled an older person is, the more likely he or she is to face high charges.

It also found large differences between councils on maximum charges, charges per hour and the allowance they make for disability-related expenses, despite the introduc-

tion of the government's Fairer Charging guidelines last year.

Although those on the lowest incomes are now better off, the report found the cost of care was "a real worry" for people receiving more than £127.63 a week.

The charity believes all charges should be abolished, and made a series of other recommendations, including calling for extra funding for councils.

The Department of Health said it believed it was fairer to spend the estimated £1.5 billion cost of free personal care on expanding services for those

who need them.

Meanwhile, disabled campaigners in Middlesbrough have protested about steep increases in their charges.

A Middlesbrough Council spokesman said it had been collecting "substantially" less than the government had anticipated and they wanted to focus on disabled people in most need.

And East Riding of Yorkshire Council scrapped its half-price rail travel concession for disabled and older people, citing budget pressures.

\*[www.ageconcern.org.uk](http://www.ageconcern.org.uk)



Pencilled in: pupils from Halesbury School have designed a logo that they and other disabled youngsters will award to accessible play, leisure and childcare facilities in the West Midlands, through Mencap's lottery-funded me2 scheme\*. Pictured are Sam Woodhouse and Natalie Mullen with Mencap's Michelle Cox. \*Tel: 01384 74561

# Lib Dems: euthanasia OK

Liberal Democrats have voted to introduce medically assisted suicide, despite campaigners believing such a law would endanger the lives of disabled people.

The overwhelming vote by ordinary constituency members was made at the party's spring conference, so there is no guarantee the policy will be included in its election manifesto.

The motion says assisted suicide would only be introduced if there was access to high quality palliative care, support for carers and detailed legal protection to ensure any request to die was "voluntary, well-con-

sidered, persistent and motivated by existing or inevitable unbearable suffering".

The Disability Rights Commission (DRC), which has decided it would be "too unsafe to legalise euthanasia with society as it is today" (*DN February*), said it "disagreed" with the stance.

But a DRC spokeswoman said it did not feel "particularly threatened" because some Liberal Democrat MPs support the DRC line and will be given a free vote when Lord Joffe's assisted suicide bill is debated in parliament.

She added: "It is important that we keep putting disabled people's views as forcefully and broadly as possible."

Paul Holmes MP, the party's disability spokesperson, who didn't attend the debate but had been intending to speak in favour of the motion, said: "This is a matter of basic human rights, conscience and the ability to exercise a rational choice over your own life."

He said he did not know how widely those who had drawn up the motion had consulted with disabled people's groups.

# Court in the act

The Conservative Party has raised fears that many crown and county courts might breach the Disability Discrimination Act's (DDA) new access duties when the new laws are introduced in October.

The Department for Constitutional Affairs (DCA) revealed in a parliamentary answer in March that more than 90 of its courts (nearly a third of the total) would currently breach the new duties, although it expects all but one to comply by the October deadline. The exception, Cardiff Crown Court, is expected to have carried out the necessary "reasonable adjustments" by November. But Paul Goodman MP,

Conservative disability spokesman, warned the government could face legal action if the work overran and that such a failure could be "quite seriously politically damaging".

"I am concerned by the sheer length of the list," he said.

A DCA spokeswoman said access improvements had been underway for three years and the DCA took its DDA responsibilities "very seriously".

Many of the courts had required "complex" and "substantial" work to be carried out, with assistance from RADAR, she added.

\**Court Service disability helpline, tel: freephone 0800 3583506*

## GREATER MOBILITY

### SCUDO MONTANA

2.0 JTD Turbo Diesel, 4 seats and wheelchair access, full low floor conversion, lightweight ramp, power steering, air conditioning, 59" headroom.

### DOBLO ASPEN

Lowered floor with lightweight rear ramp, 55" headroom, 4 wide opening side doors with rear tailgate, remote control central locking, electric windows, power steering, choice of petrol or diesel models.

**GM Coachwork build vehicles to suit individual requirements. Why not contact us to view our range of vehicles or to arrange a demonstration/test drive.**

**Motability**  
The leading car scheme for disabled people

**GM COACHWORK**  
SPECIALIST VEHICLES

**Tel: 01626 853050**  
[www.gmcoachwork.co.uk](http://www.gmcoachwork.co.uk)  
GM Coachwork Ltd Teign Valley,  
Trusham, Newton Abbot, Devon  
TQ13 0NX

## STANNAH STAIRLIFTS. LOCAL TO YOU.

Stannah's nationwide local branches offer friendly advice and 24-hour backup, 365 days a year.

- Straight, curved or narrow staircases
- New and reconditioned models
- Emergency installations. Fast, clean fitting
- No obligation fixed quotations
- Full guarantee and free first service

**CALL 0800 715 124 EXT 8023**  
[www.stannahstairlifts.co.uk](http://www.stannahstairlifts.co.uk)

Please send me details. For my household ☐ For a relative ☐

Name

Address

Postcode  Tel.

Stannah  
The world's best-selling stairlift

Stannah Stairlifts, Dept 8023,  
FREEPOST SA344, Andover, Hants SP10 3BR





**New growth:** Staff and patients enjoy a garden with raised flowerbeds – designed with wheelchair users in mind – at a new £907,000 rehabilitation unit for Saffron Walden Community Hospital. Facilities also include an assisted daily living kitchen, bathroom and bedroom, so occupational therapists can assess patients in a home-from-home environment.

# Pain failing

More than one in three people with osteoarthritis (OA) never visit a doctor, according to a new report\*.

Arthritis Care says its survey of more than 1,700 people who had contacted it for information is the most comprehensive UK report on people with OA.

Four out of five of those questioned said they experienced constant pain or were limited in their ability to carry out everyday tasks.

And nearly half said they would need to feel "frequently unbearable" pain levels before going to see a doctor.

The charity is now calling

for a government strategy which includes agreed standards of care, and the inclusion of arthritis in the GP Contract.

Neil Betteridge, director of public affairs for Arthritis Care, said: "The UK falls short at every stage of the arthritis management pathway, judging by the experience of people with OA. And people with arthritis are not aware of what is available."

He said people with OA should discuss treatment options with their GPs and take prescribed medication as advised but also explore other possibilities, such as diet and exercise.

A Department of Health

spokeswoman said the government had financially supported Arthritis Care's self-management programme and was funding major research into arthritis. She also said two new classes of drugs had been made available to NHS patients in the last year.

She told *DN* the planned National Service Framework for Long Term Conditions, due later this year, would also benefit people with arthritis.

The charity estimates there are 8.5 million people in the UK with OA, with the number set to rise as the population ages.

\*OA Nation, [www.arthritiscare.org.uk](http://www.arthritiscare.org.uk)

## £100m research boost

Research into Alzheimer's, stroke, diabetes and mental health will receive a £100 million boost over the next four years, the government has announced.

Health Secretary John Reid said money set out in the budget for research and development would focus on the four conditions and on developing new medicines for children.

And a UK Clinical Research Collaboration will be set up to enable charities, the NHS, the Medical Research Council and other bodies to collaborate on bringing new treatments in more quickly.

The research network within

the National Institute of Mental Health will also be expanded.

Welcoming the announcement, The Stroke Association said: "Each year over 130,000 people in England and Wales have a stroke and the condition has a greater disability impact than any other medical condition."

"While considerable progress has been made, much more stroke research still needs to be undertaken, across the whole range of prevention, acute treatment, rehabilitation and long-term support."

Jane Bell, deputy chief executive of the Alzheimer's Society



(above), said: "We strongly welcome the Health Secretary's announcement on medical research funding and hopes it will help scientists succeed in finding the cure that we long for."

## Epilepsy drug warning

Older epilepsy drugs may be unsuitable for women of childbearing age, the government's health watchdog has warned.

Guidance from the National Institute for Clinical Excellence says standard treatments, such as sodium valproate, are still preferable for the general population.

But women of childbearing age whose condition can be controlled on newer drugs should avoid them because of a higher risk of birth defects.

All women on anti-epilepsy treatment should seek specialist neurological advice before trying for a baby, it advises.

The guidance also mentions that many anti-epilepsy medicines can reduce the effectiveness of the contraceptive pill, although sodium valproate is not one of these.

Epilepsy Action, which welcomed the guidelines, said many women have had unplanned pregnancies because they were not told their drugs could affect their contraception.

A spokeswoman warned women not to stop treatment without speaking to their doctor. "If women are worried about their medication, they should discuss treatment with their GP," she said.

## MEDIMOTION

THE NEW "VIVA" STATE OF THE ART THERAPEUTIC EXERCISER.  
FULLY PASSIVE MOTION • ASSISTED ACTIVE MOTION • OR FULLY ACTIVE

### 240 VOLT MACHINES FOR LOWER AND UPPER BODY THERAPY.

UNIQUE ANTI SPASM CONTROL ENSURES SAFE AND GENTLE CONTINUOUS PASSIVE MOTION.

Can also be used as active trainer using your own muscle power. Handset operates at variable speeds and resistance to encourage progress and provides bio-feedback with a digital display.

Designed specifically for M.S. and C.P. patients and used extensively Worldwide for Rehabilitation and Physiotherapy.

#### Suitable for

- multiple sclerosis
- paralysis (paraplegia and tetraplegia)
- spastic and rheumatic illnesses
- blood circulation disorders (prophylaxis of thrombosis)
- Parkinson's disease
- muscular dystrophy
- arthrosis
- 'stroke' patients
- non-inflammatory illness of the peripheral nerves (polyneuropathy)
- insufficient physical exercise
- oedemas
- osteoporosis
- stiffness of the joints

#### SOLE UK IMPORTER

TAKE POSITIVE ACTION TO HELP YOUR CIRCULATORY PROBLEMS AND IMPROVE THE FLEXIBILITY OF YOUR JOINTS

CONTACT US FOR A BROCHURE:

MEDIMOTION Ltd,  
PENCADER,  
CARMARTHENSHIRE,  
SA39 9AZ.  
Tel: 01559 384 097  
Fax: 01559 384 814

EMAIL: [MEDIMOTION@STAYFREE.CO.UK](mailto:MEDIMOTION@STAYFREE.CO.UK)  
VISIT US AT [WWW.MEDIMOTION.CO.UK](http://WWW.MEDIMOTION.CO.UK)

## MS stress link

Stressful life events make multiple sclerosis symptoms worse, according to new research.

The researchers at the University of California analysed 14 trials into stress and multiple sclerosis and found a "modest but significant" risk that symptoms will worsen after stressful events such as problems with money or at work.

They said their findings, published in the *British Medical Journal*, could lead to new ways of managing the condition, through therapies such as stress management.

Chris Jones, chief executive of the MS Trust, said: "There is no doubt that most people with MS believe that stressful life events can cause or contribute to relapses."

But she said there was a need for further research to understand the connection.

And she said the new research implied that stress management techniques might be useful and "are certainly going to do no harm".



wonderful

**THE NEW****Kangoo  
Family**

**NOW YOU CAN HAVE A STYLISH 5 SEATER  
and easy wheelchair access**

Quite simply .. its in a different class



Amazing quality and finish



The best ever for wheelchair access



Discreetly re-styled by Jubilee



Electrically operated ramp release



Superbly engineered 5 seat conversion



**Don't settle for less . . .  
. . . it's the best Kangoo . . EVER !**

Information : brochures : finance quotations : part exchanges

**Call Now****0121 502 2252**Home demonstrations and test drives **0781 210 0059**www.  
jubileeauto.co.uk• **Motability****Jubilee Automotive Group**

Jubilee Automotive Group Ltd, Woden Road South, Wednesbury, West Midlands, WS10 0NQ. Opening hours Mon-Fri 9 to 6 pm, Sat 9 to 2 pm.  
Please check out our Web-Site .. it's full of other wonderful new and used Mobility vehicles



# Opportunity knocks

As chief executive of the British Council of Disabled People, Andy Rickell was a vocal critic of the 'big seven' disability charities. Then last month he announced that he would be joining Scope. How does he answer charges that he's jumped ship, asks John Pring

**M**any jaws in the disability world dropped when news leaked that Andy Rickell, chief executive of the British Council of Disabled People (BCODP), had accepted a top post with Scope.

He had, after all, been vocal in criticising Scope and other "big seven" disability charities for being run by non-disabled people and drowning out the voices of the disability movement.

One activist from the Disabled People's Direct Action Network (DAN) posted an email message to fellow "Danners", asking: "How does he sleep at night?"

Rickell, though, is unrepentant. He believes Scope is changing and that he can make a difference. "There is no perfect organisation," he says. "They are all capable of improvement. This is an opportunity to work with a large organisation which can have a big impact."

Part of his job will be to ensure Scope becomes an "exemplar" employer in terms

of diversity, and employs more disabled people at all levels. He will also look at exactly what services Scope should be providing and how they should be provided.

It is here, perhaps, that he will be entering uncharted territory. He says his role will be as a "catalyst" in a debate on how disabled people can be given choice and control over the services they receive from Scope. It may require a

**One activist from the Disabled People's Direct Action Network asked: 'How does he sleep at night?'**

"unique" solution, he says.

He accepts that some disabled Scope staff are "very worried" about his appointment, because of his past criticisms, but they too want disabled people to be given more of a voice in the charity.

There are plenty of other reasons why Rickell's appointment is such a radical step for Scope.

Chief among them is his role

as one of the authors of the Disabled People's Rights and Freedoms Bill, which has brought BCODP, DAN and the campaigning group Our Rights Now together to demand comprehensive civil rights for disabled people.

Many of its demands clash with the services Scope provides: it calls for special schools to close, and for disabled people to be allowed to live independently, rather than in residential homes. Scope, of course, runs both care homes and special schools.

Although hesitant to comment on such a controversial issue, Rickell says Scope's provision of these services means its voice in the disability world is currently "compromised".

He believes it should shut all its special schools and care homes, although he accepts such changes cannot be made overnight, and require the right levels of support to be put in place first.

Rickell, who has cerebral palsy himself, has a lifetime of evidence to back up his firm belief in inclusion.

He attended mainstream primary and secondary schools in York. He was bullied at school, but coped by concentrating on his studies, and became the first pupil from his comprehensive to win a place at Cambridge, where he secured a double first in engineering and management studies.

He is certainly a man of contradictions. He is very chatty in private – he says he hasn't stopped talking since he was two – but is more reserved in public. And although he was "very self-conscious" as a teenager, his fellow students made him secretary of his college student union. While other students rode around Cambridge on their bicycles, Rickell had a large, red, motorised trike. "You have to live with the fact that people stare," he says. "Some people become introverted and take it very personally, but I didn't. I became quite toughened and determined."

After university, he abandoned engineering and, in the hunt for a secure job at the tail end of the 1980s recession, became a tax inspector.



New home: Rickell sees his role at Scope to be a "catalyst" for change

After two years, he was told he was "too nice" and didn't have the "killer instinct". He agrees. "I like people too much," he says.

He moved to the "other side" and worked as a tax consultant with many of the big accountancy firms.

Despite his career successes as a disabled person, he remembers feeling "saddened and disappointed" at how difficult his impairment made

**'BCODP is a purist organisation that attempts to practice what it preaches'**

it to find a partner. He eventually met his first wife on an adventure weekend in the Lake District run by his future employer, Scope (then known as the Spastics Society).

She was to have a major impact on his future career in the disability movement, both by introducing him to the social model of disability and influencing his decision to become a Christian when he was 25. It was his newfound faith that sparked a career "crisis", as he began to realise that his job – "helping the rich stay rich" – was incompatible with his beliefs.

He considered becoming a church minister, but instead took a job as a community development worker for a Methodist church in a troubled area of Cheltenham in Gloucestershire.

Crime, guns and drugs were

rife, and he was attacked several times. The continuing threats to his own safety finally forced him to leave the post, but by then the stress of the job had helped break up his marriage.

He worked in community development in local government before helping to launch Disability Action Cheltenham, ensuring it was independent of the local council and was run and controlled by disabled people. He still lives in Cheltenham, with his second wife and three stepchildren.

In August 2001, he became chief executive of BCODP, but his two and a half years in the post were blighted by a constant battle for more government funding.

It is clear he has a great respect for BCODP's achievements over its 23 years. It is, he says, a "purist" organisation. It "attempts to practice what it preaches" and has ensured the social model is now accepted in government and across the disability movement.

Rickell is certainly a great catch for Scope. He is bright, well connected and carries with him excellent campaigning and political skills (he is a Liberal Democrat councillor in Cheltenham). He describes himself in a similar way: determined, optimistic and diplomatic. Brave is another word he uses when discussing his new job.

One thing is certain: Rickell will need all of these qualities in the months ahead.

**Whale introduces new modern style gulley**




**NEW**

- More aesthetic design
- Suitable for all styles of shower trays, both GRP and stone resin

For information on the new gulley contact Whale:  
 Tel: 028 9127 0531  
 Fax: 028 9146 6421  
 Email: newgulley@whalepumps.com  
 Web: www.whalepumps.com

**Whale**

See us at Naider Stand 791 and 792



# Call waiting

Last year, a record number of calls were made to disability helplines, with the result that some people were unable to speak to advisers. Lucy Glynn asks if the helplines are a victim of their own success

**D**espite phoning the Disability Rights Commission's (DRC) helpline 20 times in one day, Stephen Lawson couldn't get through to an advisor. Another time he hung up after spending half an hour on hold because he couldn't afford to stay on the phone any longer. In the end, he decided to write.

"It was just impossible to get through," he says. "Sometimes you don't even get into the queuing system; it's appalling." Unfortunately, his case is not unusual. Christine Lavery, chief executive of the Society for Mucopolysaccharide Diseases, had to wait 45 minutes to speak to an advisor and was told that this is normal, as the helpline is "considerably overstretched and receives over 500 calls a day".

*Disability Now* is contacted two or three times a week by

callers to take the matter further with their employer, suggest they take legal advice, or refer them to the DRC's conciliation service.

In its first year, the helpline received 65,000 calls. The number has now reached nearly 120,000. Last May, the DRC introduced a queuing system, because it couldn't respond to all the answerphone messages. Since then, the number of emails, faxes and letters it receives has increased.

Why is this happening? It seems disabled people are becoming more aware of their rights under the DDA and companies more aware of their responsibilities.

Ricability, the Research Institute for Consumer Affairs, carries out quarterly interviews with people who have contacted the DRC's helpline. Its report

have given up altogether?

Bob Niven, the DRC's chief executive, admits the helpline has its problems but says this is because it provides a good service and because of the success of its Open 4 All campaign.

"There is no other national helpline for disabled people and we receive a high percentage of calls about benefits, which we can't answer. It's deeply regrettable that some callers experience a long wait, but the volume of calls since we opened has almost doubled and 90 per cent of callers said they would use it again."

But it's not just the DRC which has seen an increase in call volume. Last year, DIAL UK, which provides advice on all aspects of living with a disability, including access, benefits and independent living, received more than 600,000 enquiries, an increase of 150,000 since 2002. Meanwhile, the Learning Disability Helpline answered 10,522 calls last year, 40 per cent more than 2002.

Alun Francis, senior campaign manager for RADAR, says there's a need for a general helpline. Although RADAR axed its helpline four years ago, it still receives general enquiries. Last year, the Queen Elizabeth Foundation closed its Disability Information Services (DISS) helpline, but still gets up to ten calls a day.

Lorna Reith, chief executive of Disability Alliance, agrees that more advice needs to be made available to disabled people about discrimination, benefits and rights. Although the Disability Alliance runs a helpline, it doesn't promote it because the service is already oversubscribed. They have one advisor for two hours twice a week and if the advisor is on a call, no one else can get through.

people having difficulty getting through to the helpline. The British Council of Disabled People warns callers of the problems when giving out the number and so also gives them the DRC's address. "It takes longer but at least you are not hanging on the phone," they say.

So is the DRC's helpline a victim of its own success?

The helpline was set up in 2000 to give information about the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) and to give specialist advice to people who feel they have been discriminated against because of their disability.

It receives calls from disabled people and from employers and service providers with less than 100 employees, for example, from disabled people who think they have been discriminated against at work or school.

The DRC might advise

for December 2003 shows that half of all callers found the length of time they had to wait unreasonable. The survey discovered that a third of enquiries came by email because people were "dismayed at queuing on the phone, particularly callers whose disability made it difficult to hold the phone for prolonged periods".

Perhaps, most worryingly, the research found that five per cent of helpline callers had simply given up trying to contact the DRC by phone. Although the DRC wouldn't supply figures, it's reasonable to assume that with 120,000 calls in the last year, thousands of people each month could be giving up without speaking to an advisor. Although some do contact the DRC in other ways, how many less dedicated callers



On hold: Waiting times can put callers off ever ringing again

The demand for the service was shown when, last year, additional funding allowed it to employ another advisor. She says, "When we had two people on duty we were taking twice as many calls. If we had three people we could probably take three times the number of calls. We are only a small organisation and can't meet all of the needs. The government should be providing help."

The Disabled Living Foundation (DLF) helpline answers equipment-related enquiries but was unable to give figures on the number of calls it receives. But Sue Clements, acting head of advice, says they cannot afford to expand their service to meet demand.

The DRC, meanwhile, says things are improving. Average queuing time has been reduced since January, down from 21 minutes to 13 in March. It says that from April it increased expenditure on the helpline by a third – nearly £500,000 – to fund four extra frontline advisors and six specialist advisors. It will also increase funding further if necessary.

Niven says the volume of calls shows the essential service the helpline provides. "This is a powerful indicator of the need for the DRC helpline to exist to

give clear advice and information on the DDA and, most crucially, to empower disabled people to use the rights the DDA gives them."

The government says it is important that the DRC delivers a quality service. As it works on the new disability bill, the government needs to remember this, and to ensure that the Single Equality Commission, when it comes into force, provides more funding for a disability discrimination helpline, not less.

## Phonebook

**DRC Helpline**  
discrimination issues  
tel: 08457 622 633,  
textphone: 08547 622 644  
(Mon-Fri 8am-8pm)  
**DIAL UK**  
general disability information  
and advice,  
tel: 01302 310123 (Mon-Thurs  
9am-5pm, Fri 9am-4pm)  
**Learning Disability Helpline**  
freephone tel: 0808 808 1111  
**Disability Alliance benefits  
and rights advice line**  
tel: 020 7247 8763  
(2-4pm Mon and Wed)  
**Disabled Living Foundation  
equipment helpline**  
0845 130 9177  
(Mon-Fri 10am-1pm)



## WHEELCHAIR PASSENGER TRANSPORT

# HIRE OR BUY

New and Used Cars, MPVs and Minibuses

023 9275 6265

www.atlasconversions.co.uk



• Motability

Atlas

CONVERSIONS



# Imperfect pitch

Campaigning by disabled fans has led to the redesign of the seating areas at Cardiff's Millennium Stadium (*right*), which gives wheelchair users a better view of the pitch.

The redevelopment followed protests by football fans at the poor state of the stadium's disabled facilities.

The National Association of Disabled Supporters (NADS) said the seating was "woefully misconceived" and that a non-disabled person standing in front of the wheelchair area could obliterate most of a disabled person's view.



The association worked with the stadium management to improve the platform areas so wheelchair supporters now have a clear view of the pitch at all times.

A spokesman for the Millennium Stadium said: "Instead of disabled people at

the back of the stands they are now on elevated positions."

But to make the improvements the number of disabled seats has been reduced to a maximum of 200 from 380, which has concerned some fans.

DN reader Pat White said: "This is a backward and cynical step, particularly as this is being visualised as an improvement."

NADS chair Phil Downs said he is confident the facilities are now as good as they can be. "We would rather have fewer seats where you can see the game than more seats where you can't."

## Disabled cricketers hit a sixty

Over 60 disabled cricketers have won awards in the national competition run by *Cricket World* in conjunction with DN.

The winners of the Disabled Cricketer of the Year Awards 2003 will be given their trophies at a reception at the Oval Cricket Ground later this month. From the 500 people who entered, the winners are:

**British Association of Cricketers with Disabilities (BACD) Outstanding Awards**  
**Batting:** P Blackburn  
**Bowling:** A Foster  
**Development:** J Levick

### BACD Achievement Awards

R Venables, D Holder, I Saeed, C Edwards, D West, W du Plessis, J Petch, N Atkins, L Jay, P Massey, R Hill, N Philpot, S Jackson, M McLaughlin, J Cronshaw, R Dixon, P Blackburn, R Greenwood, A Foster, I Morton, S Dancer, J Tucker,

### Cricket Federation for People with Disabilities (CFPD) Outstanding Awards

**Batting:** R Hills, P Bennett  
**Bowling:** J Jones, T Reid  
**Fielding:** K Hance, A Butterworth  
**CFPD Achievement Awards**  
 R Hills, P Blackburn,

P Bennett, T Shackel, J Jones, J Foulks, K Griffiths, T Reid, R Evans, L Lane, K Hance, A Butterworth

### Deaf Outstanding Awards

**Bowling:** S Pichowski

**Batting:** M O'Mahony

**Youth:** M Everret

### Deaf Achievement Awards

M Woodman, S George, R Pullen, M Riaz, S Jang, M Farooq, C Patel, U Valjee, D Baker

### Blind Outstanding Awards

N Foy, A Ringland, D Corrigan, B Chambers, D Samuels, S Carpenter, K Seal, A Humphries



## Named for games



Commonwealth Games champion Sue Gilroy (*above*) has been named in an experienced eight-strong Paralympic table tennis team.

The Britain Paralympic Association (BPA) announced the squad last month, which also includes Arnie Chan, James Rawson, Scott Robertson, Neil Robinson, Stefan Trofan, Cathy Mitton and Lynne Ryding.

Gilroy said: "It's four years' hard work that's finally been

rewarded. I hope that I can win a medal."

The BPA also revealed that Paralympic gold medal holders Emma Brown and Anthony Peddle will lead Britain's powerlifting squad. Natalie Blake, Jason Irving and Julie Salmon were also selected.

Brown said she is "over the moon" at going to the games and hopes to retain her title with a world record.

Irving, who missed out on going to Sydney (*DN April*), said: "I'm really excited but it hasn't sunk in."



# GENIE



Good health demands that everyone should stand up, preventing bladder problems and assisting with better circulation, digestion, bone development and pressure management. The versatile Genie also assists carers by alleviating unnecessary lifting.



INT



VERTIC



FOOT



MAN



QUAL

The Genie - Ingenious!

Further information from  
Easy Care Products Limited.  
Park Lane, Old Park, Telford, TF3 4TE.  
Fax: 01952 616588

CE

©01952 610300

easycare

NOW SUCCESSFUL CRASH TESTED

## CAN YOUR POWERCHAIR DO THIS?

Experience the amazing Balder Finesse soon. Models to suit all ages. Variety of seating systems fitted



Call Today  
**01256 767181**

Unit 24, Murrell Green Business Park  
 London Road, Hook RG27 9GR  
 Fax: 01256 768887

**BALDER**



# Fingers crossed for riding golden girl

Nicola Tustain, one of Britain's great hopes for medal success in Athens this year, has been nominated for the prestigious Laureus World Sports Awards in the category of Athlete with a Disability.

The awards are held annually and are a star-studded affair, notable for highlighting the best of the world's disabled athletes. Previous winners have included nine times Paralympic gold medal winner Louise Sauvage, one of the world's most medalled athletes, and world number one wheelchair tennis player Esther Vergeer.

Having won top British sports awards, including the 2003 Sports Journalist Association Disabled Athlete of the Year, Nicola is set to take on the rest of the world's athletes when the award is presented in May.

Nicola was born in North Wales in 1977. While



**Tanni Grey-Thompson**

**'Nicola is set to take on the rest of the world's athletes when the prestigious Laureus World Sports Awards are presented in May'**

equestrian events may not have been the most obvious choice for someone who is hemiplegic, by the age of 12 Nicola was competing at national level. She was selected for the British junior squad at 16.

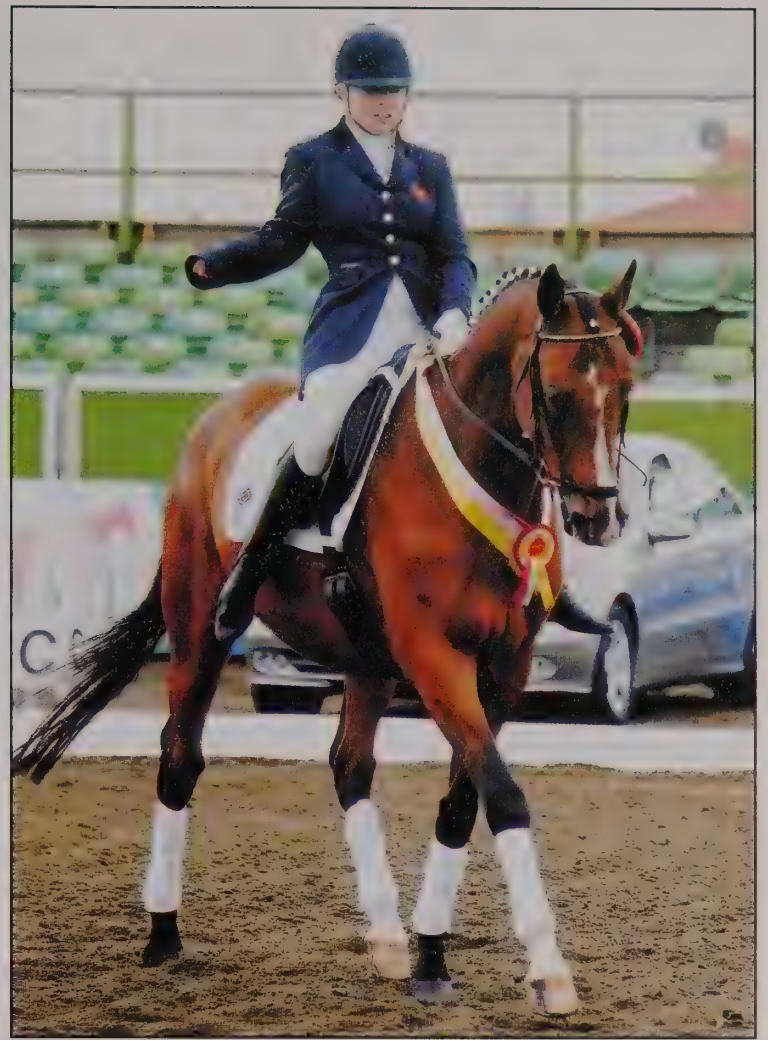
At the 2000 Sydney Paralympics, she won three medals, two gold and one bronze, achieving the highest percentage in the Dressage to

Music event with a score of 77 per cent. She has been the only British athlete to regain her world championship gold.

Taking part in sport as a disabled person is never easy or straightforward but when you consider that the horse Nicola competes on is worth £30,000 and the trailer that carries the horse costs £20,000, it's clear dressage requires both commitment and cash. Nicola has been lucky to get financial support from Sarah and Tony Pidgley who own Prinz Heinrich, the horse she currently competes on.

A basic starting cost of £50,000 as well as additional costs for transport and upkeep make my own sport look like a bit of a bargain; I'll never complain about buying a new pair of racing gloves again.

Having spent time with Nicola while with the British team, I've found her to be one of the nicest athletes to have



**Top of the clops: Nicola at the National Dressage Championships**

around. She's friendly and is always there for younger athletes. Add to that the fact she is pretty and blonde – I'd hate her if I didn't like her so much.

It would be a fantastic achievement for a British

athlete to win the Laureus award, but even if she doesn't, watch out for her in Athens and keep your fingers crossed that she will be bringing back more Paralympic golds. She's not one to disappoint.

**Newbury Racecourse, Berkshire RG14 7NZ**

**mobility**  
*south*

Packed with information and advice on mobility, equipment, transport and motoring, holidays and leisure, charities, support groups and more!

Mobility South will give you and your family the chance to get new ideas on all aspects of independent living, test out an extensive range of products in a relaxed atmosphere, and enjoy a great day out. The show is ideal for anyone with mobility difficulties, young or old, friends and families, carers and healthcare professionals.

Adapted cars • wheelchairs • accessible holidays • accessible hot air balloon  
• mobility scooters • swivel seats information and advice on independent living  
mobility aids • charities and groups and much more...

**Friday 4 June**  
**10am – 5pm**  
**Saturday 5 June**  
**10am – 5pm**



For further details, a free page of offers and directions to the event, contact Gowrings Mobility on

**Lo-Call 0845 608 8070**

or visit

**[www.mobilitysouth.co.uk](http://www.mobilitysouth.co.uk)**

Organised by

**gowrings**  
**mobility**

**[www.gowringsmobility.co.uk](http://www.gowringsmobility.co.uk)**

Register now to receive your free page of offers and discounts!

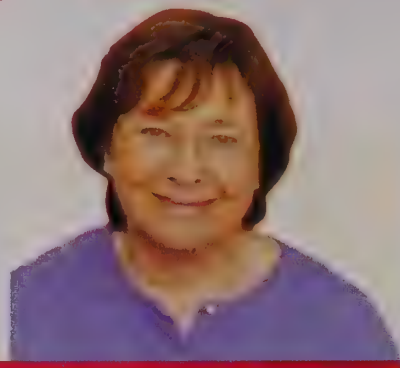
**Lo-Call 0845 608 8070** **[www.mobilitysouth.co.uk](http://www.mobilitysouth.co.uk)**





# Letters to the Editor

Send your letters to the editor  
Mary Wilkinson, Disability Now,  
6 Market Road, London N7 9PW,  
minicom: 020 7619 7332,  
fax: 020 7619 7331,  
e-mail: editor@disabilitynow.org.uk



ILLUSTRATIONS: CLARE CURTIS

## How reasonable is 'reasonable'?

During a recent phone-in programme on BBC Radio Devon, Maria Eagle, Minister for Disabled People, maintained that facilities for disabled people under the Disability Discrimination Act would only have to be provided if it was "reasonable" for "service providers" to do so.

Ms Eagle left everyone with the impression that as long as hoteliers and restaurateurs say

it is "unreasonable" for them to do so, then hard luck disabled people. And that includes members of clubs or societies, who use hotels or restaurants as a meeting place.

Surely the Act should have been drawn up in such a way that "service providers" have to provide facilities for disabled people unless they can prove to a court or tribunal that it would be impossible for them to do?

If you speak to "service providers" about the provision of facilities, you are, in many cases, made to feel like second class citizens. The prejudice that comes forth against disabled people is unbelievable.

The government should take a hard line, otherwise nothing will change.

**Brian Inch**  
Bude  
Cornwall

## Changing Scope from the inside

First impression – how could Andy Rickell get in bed with the "enemy" (DN, April)? Second thought – maybe it is a good thing. Maybe he will be able to bring about changes from the inside.

Scope has discriminated against people with cerebral palsy since its inception. All my job applications to it were refused although I was academically qualified and never had a problem getting a job with local authorities as a

social worker.

In the early 90s our local disabled people's organisation met in a Scope owned building. The door keeper told us he was only permitted to work in the evenings, when he would not meet the ordinary public.

Yes, I hope Andy Rickell's appointment marks the beginning of a new era when Scope is run by disabled people promoting the rights of disabled people.

**Jill Mahler** (e-mail)

## Cold callers

Have any other DN readers fallen prey to cold callers from mobile phone providers?

Our daughter, who has learning difficulties, was persuaded to accept a "free" mobile phone by a telecom company, not realising she was entering into a verbal but legally binding contract to pay a monthly rental totalling over £231 a year.

The phone was held up at the sorting office. By the time she found out it was there, it was too late to cancel the contract within the statutory 12 days.

The phone was sent back unopened and her circumstances explained, but demands for rental payment continued to be sent. After two months of strong protests, the company cancelled the agreement.

Others might not be so lucky.  
**Margaret Peter**  
London NW3

## Government u-turn on ME and CFS classification

Your news story "ME services under attack" (DN, March) summed up many key concerns of people with myalgic encephalopathy/chronic fatigue syndrome (ME/CFS) about new government initiatives on research and service provision.

However, in a further important and welcome development, a health minister, Lord Warner, has made it clear that the government now accepts that both ME and CFS should be classified as neurological diseases in the World Health Organisation International Classification of Diseases.

This decision will have important implications for a significant minority of people with ME and CFS who are being discriminated against in benefits – particularly private health insurance payments for sickness and disability – as the insurance companies will now have great difficulty claiming ME or CFS are mental health disorders in their exclusion clauses.

Incidentally, I have pointed out to government that these exclusion clauses relating to mental health problems are discriminatory and should be made illegal under the Disability Discrimination Act.

**Dr Charles Shepherd**  
Medical Adviser  
ME Association  
Buckingham

## Firefighters guide

The fire service and the Disability Rights Commission are producing a guidance document on how fire services should implement the DDA.  
**Michelle Valentine**  
DRC, tel: 0161 958 2062

## Teen spirit



by Toby Ott

I thought it would be easy. No one would fail to want to "employ" me. I am a competent touch typist and brilliant on the phone. I'm even a minor celebrity – subject of a TV documentary and of a programme promoting the European Year of the Disabled. Chris Tarrant sends me a Christmas card. But I didn't realise how difficult it would be to get two weeks' work experience.

"Being blind is other people's problem, not mine" has always been my catchphrase. Until now I have never really met with discrimination. In America, when I parasailed over alligator or shark-infested waters, the answer to my daredevil requests was "no problem".

Mum and dad have always encouraged me to be brave, have a go and take a risk. I have even looped the loop in a glider, something my dad didn't dare do. Would no one take a risk on me?

I never realised that so many companies would be having urgent repairs, decorations or mergers during the exact time of my work experience. One famous organisation said I was a "health and safety hazard".

Five months later, still no placement. School advised me to walk the streets and knock on some doors. Half term came. Mum said she needed to lose some weight and as I wouldn't have got very far without her, walk the streets we did. The day we chose was a wet one. But we found an organisation willing to take a risk with the health and safety of their workforce. This dangerous 14-year-old now has two weeks' work experience with Action for Blind People.

I am thinking about a career in journalism. So, all those companies who felt they couldn't or wouldn't take a risk with me in their workplace, I haven't forgotten you. You think I am dangerous now – just wait until I get older.

The exciting **NEW VITO** is now available from

**Interbility**



Please contact Ron or Bob for full details of our comprehensive range of conversions, including:-

**'DRIVE-FROM-A-WHEELCHAIR'**

**Mercedes Vito also available on the Motability Contract Hire**

Interbility Ltd Unit 21 Gunnels Wood Park Stevenage Herts SG1 2BH  
Tel: 01438 747448 Fax: 01438 750319  
email: interbility@btconnect.com

## back chat

● As if any more evidence was needed that the capital's bars and clubs have a long way to go to fulfil their approaching Disability Discrimination Act duties, finding a venue to host DN's 20th birthday evening bash has been a nightmare. More than 50 phone calls were made, and only a handful of venues were able to confirm they had level access to the bar and a disabled toilet. Hats off to Clerkenwell's trendy Play bar who confirmed they were "fully disabled accessible"...but added

that they had no disabled loo. Oh dear.

● Not content with mocking facial disfigurement on his XFM show, Ricky Gervais' new stand-up tour allegedly "smashes through the politically unsound barrier", with jokes about Stephen Hawking and Dame Thora Hird's laziness, gross-out gay sex gags, and a film of the funny man mocking a wheelchair user in the street. We thought it was Ricky's *The Office* character, David Brent, who was the bigot. Now we're not so sure.



# think about it . . . . .

Think about a totally new concept in wheelchair design that paves the way for multiple mobility solutions in a single chair. The new Fusion from K schall takes the lead, using the latest technology and materials - it's the wheelchair re-invented.

This latest design allows highly active users to increase and enhance their independence, by combining a rigid frame with a supportive seating unit.



**kuschall**  
designed for life

- Fusion technology — bonded frame with no welded parts
- Aluminium and Carbon fibre structure — with profiled oval tube
- Tension adjustable back — maximising support
- Flow™ castor technology — unique to K schall
- Lightweight Aeroback fabric — breathable
- Frame coloured cross brace
- Overall weight 9.8kg\*
- 140kg/22st maximum user weight



## think fusion . . . . .

For further information, please contact Invacare on 01656 753271

K schall AG part of the Invacare Corporation

\* In standard configuration





# AUTOMOTIVE GROUP

## 04 ACCESSIBLE SHARAN



Fully adapted  
from

**£ 18,950.00**



New body & interior styling with alloy wheels, curtain air bags, front and rear parking sensors as standard.

Accommodates wheelchair & user + 5 passengers inc. driver  
Available with manual or automatic transmission.

## 04 ACCESSIBLE PREVIA



Fully adapted  
from

**£ 23,500.00**



New body and interior styling on all models.  
59" of clear head room for wheelchair user

Accommodates wheelchair & user + 5 passengers inc. driver  
Available with automatic or manual transmission

## 04 ACCESSO & ACCESSO PLUS



**NO DEPOSIT  
FROM**

**£ 48.00  
Per week**



Guaranteed the most versatile lowest cost wheelchair accessible people carrier available - can be adapted to give 69" of headroom.

• **Motability**

**We do not compromise on quality  
to be economical on price**



Self drive hire, long term lease, purchase, no deposit finance available on full range

**CONTACT OUR NATIONAL TEAM FOR MORE INFORMATION ON**

**0191 2260099**



**Julie Fernandez, actress**



"I think it's an amazing piece of art. I really like it. She's an amazing human being. **She's someone to look up to in the same way as Nelson was someone to look up to.**

"I just love the fact that it is a disabled, pregnant woman and it is in your face. I think it is about time that statues like that are put out to challenge people's conceptions on disability

and beauty. The bigger the tourist venue the better, because it gets people to think about the subject of disability and body fascism."



**Alison Julal, European Year of Disabled People coordinator for Greater London Action on Disability**

"I think it's brilliant. Part of the European Year of Disabled People, even though it is over now, was presenting positive images of disabled people and I think this is a very good one.

**"It will do a lot for the disabled people's movement,** particularly as it will be in the middle of Trafalgar Square so everybody can see it.

"It will give a really good image of disabled people and show that we can be high profile and we can be valued."

**Labour MP Anne Begg**

"It celebrates a body that is not the normal body beautiful image, which is brilliant. It looks beautiful. I think it challenges our images of what is perfection and what is beauty. **I just wish they had thought that about my body.**

"If art, sculpture, is about anything, it is about getting people to talk about things. Even if people are horrified by the thought of it, that is actually a positive thing because they have been challenged and are having to address what it is they are unhappy about.

"Very often with disability, people tend not to talk about it or pretend it doesn't exist. If this engenders discussion on all aspects of disability, that can only be a good thing."

**Valeria Lang, honorary life member of Scope**

"Some people will be shocked, but I think that's more because there has not been a female nude in Trafalgar Square before.

"I think some might question whether this is the right place for a nude figure, but it is a lovely statue and it should be on public display. **Possibly it would be better in an art gallery.**"



**Have YOUR say.** Send your views to DN at: [editor@disabilitynow.org.uk](mailto:editor@disabilitynow.org.uk) or write to Disability Now, 6 Market Road, London N7 9PW.



**Alison Lapper, artist, mother and subject of the sculpture**

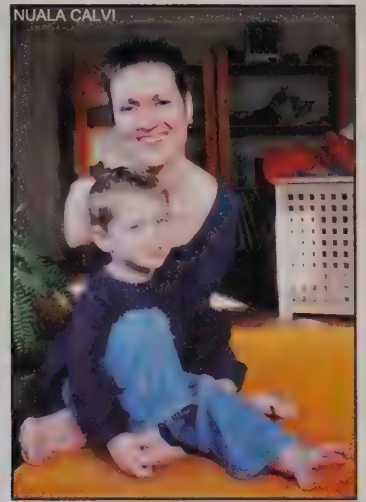
"What I like about it is that it shows I am comfortable in my own skin and disability isn't ugly, grotesque and these wonderful things people want to call us. It's so controversial, it's brilliant. It's making people talk about the issues that are very much out there but nobody wants to talk about because it's disability.

"I was shocked at how much debate this stirred up. I wasn't expecting it. I thought that most people would think it was fine

and be very accepting. It has pressed all the right buttons. "If it helps and inspires people it is fantastic, but I am not on a crusade, yet people do see you in that light.

"You don't see disability in everyday life and why not? People keep saying it has all got so much better, but if it's got so much better why has my statue caused so much controversy and prejudice?

**"They are saying it's disgusting. What's disgusting?** My nudity? My pregnancy? My disability? The whole thing? I find it all very interesting."



**Simone Baker, vice-chair of the Disabled Parents Network and mother of a seven-year-old daughter**

"The statue is challenging four of people's greatest prejudices, that pregnant women can be naked, that disabled people can be naked, that disabled people can be seen in public and that disabled people can become pregnant.

**"I wouldn't want to do it myself, but if someone else wants to do it, that's great.** Maybe the thing that people don't like is that Alison is happy with her body. It is saying, 'here we are, like it or not'. It is throwing it right into people's faces.

"I know that I will see it and I will feel really chuffed that here is something that represents everything that I believe.

"The fact that it has sparked a lot of controversy is brilliant. I hope the pigeons appreciate it as well."



**Kate Nash, director of disability charity RADAR**

"The juxtaposition of disability and pregnancy is very good, very adventurous.

"I think people will go through a number of feelings when they observe the sculpture – 'isn't it beautiful... a new form of life... and **she has a disability... she must have had sex... and maybe I am feeling repulsed**'.

"It is an opportunity for people to consider the sexuality of disabled people and that it is as beautiful, as messy, as humorous as it is for non-disabled people."



**Clair Lewis, activist with the Disabled People's Direct Action Network (DAN) and mother-to-be**

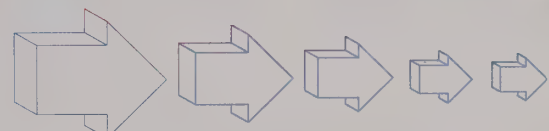
"I think it is fantastic, at a time when we are fighting eugenics and there are a lot of issues around disabled people and reproduction. "Disabled people are still being sterilised without their consent; disabled babies are still being aborted up until full term. It is a great time to see an image of a pregnant, disabled woman.

"I think it's brilliant. **It might shock people and that's good. But they shouldn't be shocked. It's just a pregnant woman.**"

Official Publication.



Supported by



**DISABILITY AND ACCESS TO SERVICES**  
Preparing for New Rights and Responsibilities

Tuesday 18th May 2004, Hilton London Metropole, London W2

From October 2004, 8.6 million disabled people in this country will benefit from new rights of access to services. This is a huge new piece of legislation, which will impact on everyone providing a service from the local authority, to the health trust, to the high street shop or restaurant chain. Providers across the public and independent sector will be required to consider alterations to the physical structure of buildings and to ensure that their disabled customers and clients can access services. Requirements to provide suitable auxiliary aids will also remain. Good leadership, strategic planning and a good level of knowledge from senior managers will be required to ensure the creation of accessible services, suitable premises, and a suitably trained workforce.

This conference will provide practical advice on creating an effective strategy to meet the needs of disabled people. The event will allow service providers to discuss the new legal requirements, give a view of latest good practice, and will bring together service managers, accessibility professionals, architects, and disabled people to discuss how best to make services accessible.



**KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

**Maria Eagle MP**

Minister for Disabled People,  
Department for Work and Pensions

For further information contact Gemma Suter on

tel: 0207 324 4363 fax: 0207 490 8850 email: [gemma.suter@neilstewartassociates.co.uk](mailto:gemma.suter@neilstewartassociates.co.uk)  
**[www.neilstewartassociates.com/sh159](http://www.neilstewartassociates.com/sh159)**



# QUALITY, RELIABILITY, ACCESSIBILITY, VALUE!



FREEDOM S™



17, 15, 12, 9 seat minibus in stock

8/9 seater EUROBUS™



Also available  
EUROBUS Twin  
with twin  
wheelchair facility  
Call now for further  
information



## LOW COST ACCESSIBILITY

As the country's largest vehicle conversion company Allied Vehicles have built an excellent reputation over the past 35 years for quality, value and service. Vehicles are converted at our own purpose built facilities - which means valuable savings - savings that are passed onto you, in addition to better build quality and faster delivery times.

To find out how easy and affordable it is to purchase your new vehicle please phone free on **0800 587 9656** and talk to one of our friendly customer service team today.



Motability

**Allied Vehicles**  
Driving For Perfection



# Thyme out

Nicola Bell opens *DN's* gardening special by revealing how research into the healing properties of herbs benefitted both her garden and health

I've had an interest in gardening ever since my parents were brave enough to let me have a small plot in their own garden at the tender age of five. Back then, much of my time was spent making mud pies and planting dead heads from Mum's pansies in one of the wooden seed trays, somehow expecting them to grow. They never did, of course, but my love for gardening did and somehow the senses stimulated all those years ago have never gone away.

Even now, however bad my pain gets, I find it deeply meditative spending just five minutes pottering around the garden. I have rheumatoid arthritis and in recent years have gone through various operations to replace joints to the point that I now feel like a bionic woman.

To make things more exciting, I had a stroke four years ago, where I lost my speech and the comprehension of the simplest things. I've recovered fully now, but a large part of my recovery took place in my garden. By just spending



DAVID JENKINS

time in it, I can feel it healing me.

Part of the garden's healing properties come from the herbs that I've planted in every available space. After filling my garden with herbs, I did some research into their traditional uses, their mystical history, folklore and their healing properties. I was surprised to discover that the herbs I'd picked up over the years were therapeutic for me in one way or another.

My research taught me a lot. Rue, for example, is rich in

iron and helps to harden bones and teeth. A compress of the leaves can be used to treat wounds and burns and, in some instances, skin ulcers. On the other side, it also helps stimulate the appetite, eases colic and expels worms.

Camomile, as many will know, has an anti-inflammatory quality and is wonderful in tea with a little honey. This is another herb that helps stimulate the appetite. I've also known people to use camomile for skin conditions like eczema and in the treatment of wounds and burns.

As my understanding of herbs increased, I realised the little bay trees that I'd been nurturing also had their uses. Not only are their leaves useful in cookery, but I found that if I made an infusion, blended it with a little massage oil and then rubbed it onto my joints, it reduced the pain.

I also discovered that the persistent daisies that kept poking their heads up in my lawn had their uses. They can benefit people with arthritis and rheumatism and they can help treat coughs and colds. Like bay, they're also useful for the cook: the flowers can be added to summer salads and desserts.

The lovage outside my kitchen window can be used to treat migraines and rheumatism and it's also beneficial in easing stomach and digestive problems. As its name suggests, it has also been used in the past as an aphrodisiac and was used to make love potions and charms along with a combination of other garden herbs.

Although it's been fascinating learning about herbs and their qualities, I'm careful to consult a qualified herbalist before using any of the plants.

During the last few years I've been working a magical theme into the garden. In the first year, I chose the story of Alice in Wonderland as a starting point. It allowed my imagination to go wild. I spent hours in the local junk shops and car boot sales buying broken china, wicker baskets – even an old cast iron fireplace.



PICTURES: NICOLA BELL

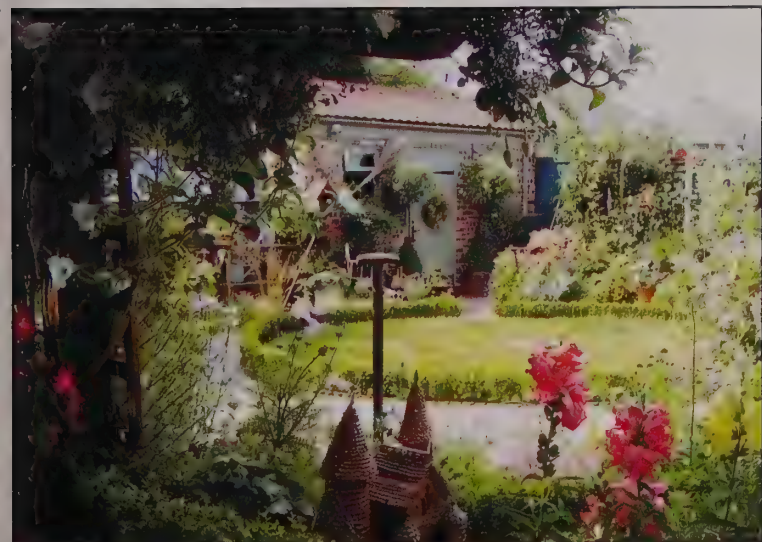
Path to recovery: Camomile, thyme and Moroccan mint fill the borders

The centrepiece of the Alice garden was a candelabra with wax dripping from its holders. It took ages to create, but with some bits of cotton and a lot of patience it began looking as though it was older than it really was.

I've been concentrating on the magical theme even more in

the last couple of years, taking new ideas from Harry Potter. I've planted a rose clematis and plenty of cottage garden plants which grow over the raised beds.

I also installed a long-awaited irrigation system last year, which enables me to sit back and relax while drinking my camomile tea.



Towers and flowers: Lovage and rue surround a self-sculpted castle



Summer seat: Rosemary, parsley and bay surround the chair

## CORNWALL

Caroline and Colin Northover invite you to stay at **Tregoninny Farm** near Truro (2 miles) for **bed and breakfast**.

Very secluded and peaceful working farm with recently converted barns specifically designed for disabled access and needs.

**(All categories)**

Most rooms en suite, TV, tea-making etc. Beautiful panoramic views over unspoilt countryside from the dining room.

Ideal base for exploring Cornwall.

- Eden Project
  - Heligan Gardens
  - North and south scenic coastline
- All rooms non-smoking. Cot available.

Rates from £20pp + VAT

Weekend and short breaks November-March

Discount for group bookings.

Tel: 01872 520145 Fax: 01872 264406  
email: caroline.northover@btinternet.com



# Flower power

Inclusive garden designs work for everyone. So why can't there be more of them around, Fred Walden asks



Peace of the action: Sssh... It's Our Garden, a Green Design for The Shooting Star Hospice for children at Hampton Court 2003

**T**he Garden show season starts on 25 May with the Royal Horticultural Society Chelsea Flower Show. The awe-inspiring show gardens frequently cost

in excess of £100,000 and attract sponsorship from multinational corporations, charities and Arabian royalty. Many disability related charities have sponsored

gardens but few have attempted to accommodate the needs of their clients and make the gardens accessible. (The Freedom Garden, sponsored Action for Blind People, DN



All included: Fred Walden (left) and friends take time out in the Inclusion Garden at BBC Gardeners' World Show at the NEC

and Scope in 1998 was an interesting exception.) The pressure to win a medal and seek publicity seems to override the major principle at stake.

The idea of integrating and including everyone into garden design took a huge step (or should I say roll) forward last year at the BBC Gardeners' World Live Show at the NEC. A small garden fittingly called "Inclusion" won a silver medal and set an example I hope some of the big charities will follow.

Inclusion was designed by

Charles Hancock. Its modern lines and subtle pastel colours attracted my attention right away. Whilst congratulating Charles on his creation, I flippantly added "...and it all looks so wheelchair accessible too".

"That's why it's called Inclusion", he said. (Go to the back of the class Fred and read your press pack next time.)

One thing my slowness did highlight is that a garden can be aesthetically stunning and totally accessible. From initial appearances, I had no idea that my needs had been considered in the design.

As well as the obligatory raised beds, there was a raised pond (with a glass front), a wheelchair-friendly table and a thoughtfully tiled patio area. The planting provided some shade but also good visibility of the star performing plants like grasses and alliums. Remember, if you have raised beds, taller plants may grow out of your view very quickly.

On leaving the tranquillity of the Inclusion Garden (ejected for trying to cook my sausages on its barbeque), I told Charles if I was a judge he would win a gold medal. Well, he got silver, so my judgement and that of the RHS are not too far apart.

The RHS Hampton Court Flower Show also featured an accessible garden last year, but for a specific purpose. Called "Sssh...It's Our Garden", it was designed by Green Design for The Shooting Star Hospice for children, which is currently under construction in Hampton Hill near Twickenham. The garden was designed to allow

## GET AROUND



### THE MOBILITY ROADSHOW

It'll change the way you get around

If you have a mobility problem you can't afford to miss the Mobility Roadshow. See and try out the latest adapted and specialist vehicles, plus walking aids, scooters, wheelchairs, ramps, hoists, stairlifts and other mobility products from a wide range of exhibitors. Admission and showguides are FREE and there are wheelchair & scooter loans to help you get around.

#### Two shows in 2004:

17th-19th June, Donington Park, near Derby  
9th & 10th July, Royal Highland Centre, Ingleston, Edinburgh  
Open Daily from 10am-5pm

For further details call:

**0870 770 3222**

e-mail: [choice@gt.net.gov.uk](mailto:choice@gt.net.gov.uk)



**the Mobility Roadshow**

[www.justmobility.co.uk/roadshow](http://www.justmobility.co.uk/roadshow)





The Inclusion Garden (above) and pond feature (below)



children in wheelchairs and beds to access and enjoy the plants.

Wide, smooth paths allowed easy access to coloured raised beds containing thousands of low growing fragrant plants, such as geraniums, salvias, lavender, rosemary, santolinas and nepatas, which formed a kaleidoscope effect and dazzled the senses. Wind chimes, interactive water features and bird boxes also helped make this a stimulating and exciting garden to be in.

Back to the reality of building an Inclusive garden at home, I have found a new product called Woodblocx that allows raised beds and similar garden structures to be quickly and easily constructed.

For many years I have used a similar product called Designwood to create accessible gardens. The new Woodblocx system has smaller pieces and you can create more intricate designs. It is very adaptable and secure because it uses plastic plugs and grommets to hold the wooden blocks together. Virtually any size and shape of structure can be built by DIY enthusiasts without having to call in expensive tradesmen. The company's website [www.woodblocx.com](http://www.woodblocx.com) has pages of ideas and can help you calculate the cost of

your chosen design.

Designwood is probably better for really large structures and higher retaining walls. The Woodblocx system has smaller components and would be feasible for a fairly fit wheelchair user to use themselves. WoodblocX, Munro Sawmills, Dingwall, Ross-shire, tel: 01349 863226, [www.woodblocx.com](http://www.woodblocx.com), email: [enquiries@blocx.net](mailto:enquiries@blocx.net). Designwood, MCI Timply Ltd, Much Hadham, Herts, tel: 01279 842 288, email: [MCI@woodpro.demon.co.uk](mailto:MCI@woodpro.demon.co.uk) Fred Walden is a writer and consultant on gardening and diy equipment. See [www.fredshed.co.uk](http://www.fredshed.co.uk)

# 200 years young

Gardens and access features to look out for at 2004's show

Chelsea Flower Show is 200 years old! It's Bicentenary Year for the Royal Horticultural Society, and the RHS is promising an extra special Chelsea Flower Show.

TV gardeners Dan Pearson and Duirmuid Gavin have designed gardens, but I can't wait to see the Merlin's cave garden featuring medicinal plants, and "The Garden of Hope", the war torn cottage with a water feature in a bomb crater.

Designer Alex Hart, who has arthritis, has teamed up with the Arthritis Research Campaign to produce a low maintenance garden which is easy to look after. Called "The Arc Garden" it can be found in the courtyard garden section of the show.

The Living Paintings Trust, which brings pictures to life for blind and partially sighted people, is showing in the small garden category and features vivid colours and woven panels of copper and willow.

In the main show garden category, Cancer Research UK has a garden to celebrate the beauty of life with red, yellow and orange plants predominating. Altogether there will be 22 show gardens, many smaller ones, and hundreds of flower and plant exhibits.

This year the site gets stage one of a major revamp, which should improve access. The two pavilions will be joined to produce one the size of two football pitches, all under one roof. Consequently only one gravel covered aisle will be left that is hard to push on. Also the show gardens will be



2003's Visions of Snowdonia by Peter Tinsley

more evenly distributed around the site to reduce crowd bottlenecks. Next year the show will open for an extra day to alleviate overcrowding.

While access should be pretty good, the crowds are more of a problem. There are plenty of loos and places to buy food. Disabled parking is in nearby Battersea Park, a short distance across the bridge. Wheelchair users can

bring a helper to the show who gets in free.

Tickets, which must be booked in advance, range from £9.50-£31, depending on the day and if you want a half or full day. Members hotline 0870 906 3780; non-members hotline (for Thursday and Friday only) 0870 906 3781, or book online at [www.rhs.org.uk/chelsea](http://www.rhs.org.uk/chelsea) RHS show information, tel: 020 7649 1885, or [www.rhs.org.uk](http://www.rhs.org.uk)

## A HOLIDAYS for DISABLED PERSONS

**Accessible Accommodation Guaranteed.**  
**Flights to Cyprus, Tenerife, Malaga, Lanzarote, Costa Almeria, Majorca, Algarve, Malta, Rhodes and Florida.**  
**Weekend Breaks - Paris, Dublin & Amsterdam.**  
**Holiday homes in France.**

**2004 brochure with coloured pictures is available at [www.access-travel.co.uk](http://www.access-travel.co.uk)**

**or please apply to:**  
**Access Travel (Lancs) Ltd, 6 The Hillock, Astley, Lancs M29 7GW, tel: 01942 888844.**



**MAKE BATHTIME FUN for EVERYONE!**

with the **Mangar Surfer Bather**

A child's elevating bathing aid

- Comfortable
- Portable
- Lightweight
- Easy to Clean
- Adjustable Backrest
- Lie right down at the bottom of the bath

**And the New Mangar Sub**

A supportive multipurpose seating system for use in the bath and around the home.

**Mangar** CE Two Year Guarantee

I would like a Free Brochure ☐ A Free Demonstration ☐

Name .....

Address .....

Tel: No: ..... Fax No: .....

Sales Dept., **Mangar International**, Presteigne, Powys, LD8 2UF. Tel: 01544 267674 Fax: 01544 260287  
email: [sales@mangar.co.uk](mailto:sales@mangar.co.uk) website: [www.mangar.co.uk](http://www.mangar.co.uk)

DN5/04



# How does your garden grow?



**S**pring is here and I've been planning my display of flowers for tubs and hanging baskets. Last year I was able to trial the new *novella lavatera* (see above) from Suttons, which is now their 2004 flower of the year (see special offers, page 47). It's a bushy, early flowering variety with large striking pink flowers. Available as plugs or seeds. (£1.99 for 20 seeds).

Also from Suttons is the calendula Daisy May Gold variety (see below), which produces



masses of flowers in various shades of yellow. They are easy to grow and will flower continuously throughout the summer. (£1.29 for 120 seeds). There is also the sweet pea, in two varieties, Dreamy Sunset (a vibrant orange red colour, see right) and Fragrant Skies (with navy blue



There are many inexpensive and innovative ways of getting a good show in the garden. Anne Davies has some top tips

and violet bicoloured blooms). Both are distinctive, heavily scented flowers, guaranteed to brighten up your garden. (£1.39 for 22 seeds).

Tel: 01803 696300, or see [www.suttons-seeds.co.uk](http://www.suttons-seeds.co.uk)

B&Q is a good source of plants for bedding and hanging baskets, including trailing petunias, fuchsias, busy lizzies, begonias and lobelia (various prices). For your nearest store, see [www.diy.com](http://www.diy.com)

Thompson and Morgan also has a wide variety, such as cascading carnations, which are perennial if kept free from frost (£1.99 for 100 seeds), and petunia *mini bella*, which have bright starry flowers and excellent rain resistance (£1.99 for 50 seeds). Try the new *nicotiana eau de cologne*, with upward facing blooms in mixed fragrances (£1.99 for 60 seeds), or double shine sunflowers, which can reach five feet, are multi-flowering, pollen-free and good for cut flowers (£2.29 for 20 seeds). Tel: 01473 688821, or see [www.thompson-morgan.com](http://www.thompson-morgan.com)

Long-term favourite Fothergill's has an Inferno scarlet begonia, which branches up to 12 inches high (£2.15 for 150 seeds), and the *surfinia* in shades of crazy pink (£6.95 for six plants) and vanilla (a new colour for 2004, £3.95 for six), which will make a spectacular show in hanging baskets. They also have petunias in cool shades of blue and white (£3.29 for 10 seeds), a new collection of Daisy Crazy marguerites especially for containers (£7.95 for five) and a trailing herb collection if you want to try something a bit different



(five varieties for £7.45). From some garden stores. Tel: 01638 55251, or see [www.mr-fothergills.co.uk](http://www.mr-fothergills.co.uk)

To keep your plants in peak condition, you need a good compost. Try GEM multi-purpose peat-based compost, or the J Arthur Bowers New Horizon multi-purpose peat-free variety. Plants also need feeding, and I find the Phostrogen slow release granules easy to use and the clusters ideal for hanging baskets. For tomatoes and flowers, a high-potash liquid concentrate will give good results (various prices). Available from main garden

centres – B&Q, Homebase and Focus are all good value.

To show off your hanging baskets in all their glory, try a display stand such as the tree cascade basket stand (see above) from Homebase (£29.99). Tel: 0845 0778888, or see [www.homebase.co.uk](http://www.homebase.co.uk)

For plant containers, top of the pots are the ceramic ones. Handmade cylinder stoneware pots from Errington Reay have been made the same way for over a hundred years, and have a rich bronze salt glaze. (From £15). Tel: 01434 344245, or see [www.erringtonreay.co.uk](http://www.erringtonreay.co.uk)

Another unique option is the new



Coast range of containers from Stewart Ceramics. Inspired by weathered timber, they are handcrafted with rope handles and are frost resistant, so they are practical too. Other ranges include the Tropics collection and the Canyon designs. (From £19.99). Tel: 020 86862231, or see [www.forabeautifulgarden.com](http://www.forabeautifulgarden.com)

Protect your plants from late frosts and cold winds with a cold frame or a greenhouse. Try the new cold frame on a stand from Ferndale Lodge (see below), which is ideal for the unpredictable English weather (£99.95). Mail order only. Tel: 0870 4441342, or see [www.ferndale-lodge.co.uk](http://www.ferndale-lodge.co.uk). Sunshine Garden has a mini pop up greenhouse (£17.99) that can be pegged down (pegs provided) and gives a good square cubed metre of space. (See special offers, page 47). Available from selected garden stores. Tel: 01420 511500, or see [www.sunshine-garden-products.co.uk](http://www.sunshine-garden-products.co.uk) You could also check out the Parasene aluminium cold frame with adjustable features from B&Q, which I've been using. (£29.99, see address above).

Finally, some products to help you in the garden. Town and Country have tool holder belt pouches (see above), which are handy for all those odds and ends (3-pocket, £9.99, 4-pocket, £10.99). Tel: 01530 830990 for stockists, or see [www.townandco.com](http://www.townandco.com)

The No-Nail Vine Eyes from Tenax is an easy way to fix climbers, with epoxy putty that sets rock hard within 24 hours. (£2.85 for 10). From all good garden centres.

Alan Titchmarsh now has his own range of products, including a series of mugs for the hardworking gardener. What about a cuppa in the Weeder's Digest or Lawn Ranger mug? (£9.99 each). From garden centres and gift shops, or see [www.alantitchmarsh.com](http://www.alantitchmarsh.com)

Most websites have online catalogues and deliver around the UK, so these products could also make an ideal gift for a green-fingered friend. Happy gardening!



**The MILFORD ELECTRIC PERSON LIFT**

**The Simplest Way to be Lifted from your Wheelchair into a Vehicle**

Body of Milford now made from aluminium - Weighs just 8kg.

Use in the home with wall bracket or optional mobile base.

Fitting throughout the UK.

Free home demonstrations.

**CALL FREE ON 0800 214 045 FOR FURTHER INFORMATION**

**E-mail: [info@autochair.co.uk](mailto:info@autochair.co.uk) Website: [www.autochair.co.uk](http://www.autochair.co.uk)**

**AUTOCHAIR**





# Footnotes for green fingers

Lucy Howard profiles the latest innovations and websites for green fingered enthusiasts



Enjoy your garden in style with this adaptable garden table, made by Terry Hart of Donington, Lincolnshire. They can be made in all shapes and sizes and sections of the seating can be lifted out as required to accommodate a wheelchair. They are also useful for people with restricted lower limb movement, who can stand at the table and have the seat clipped into place behind them.

Prices vary. Contact Terry on 01775 820078.

The Sensory Trust, which promotes accessibility of green spaces and advises on inclusive design, is holding a range of events and conferences this year in the UK. Their website gives information about these, and also outlines their research projects and gives information on relevant publications. See [www.sensorytrust.org.uk](http://www.sensorytrust.org.uk), or email [enquiries@sensorytrust.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@sensorytrust.org.uk)

DN reader Mary Curran suggests using everyday household items to grow and nurture plants. A half-pint milk container can be used to plant seeds, and a cake box makes an ideal mini frame for seeds on a window sill. Find another use for a plastic drinks bottle by cutting it into rings to put around young plants to protect them from slugs until they grow bigger, and use a pan stand to hold bowls of flowers or provide a support for sweet peas.

Thrive, the horticultural charity which organises special projects for people with disabilities, has a website with information and advice on how to make gardening easier. It includes a pictorial garden guide as well as an area to share your tips with fellow gardening enthusiasts and read about how others have adapted their individual gardens. See [www.carryongardening.org.uk](http://www.carryongardening.org.uk). For more useful gardening tools, see [www.get-digging.co.uk](http://www.get-digging.co.uk)

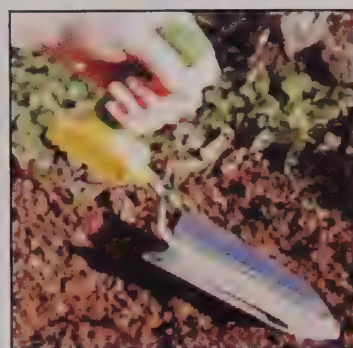
There are various projects around the UK where you can get hands-on gardening experience, including the Growing Matters horticultural therapy project in Morecambe, Lancashire, which provides voluntary work for people with a range of mental health conditions. Growing Matters also sells gardening materials. Tel: 01524 581405.

Growability offers training and experience in horticulture for adults with disabilities at four sites in Northumberland. See [cmoonhsu.members.beeb.net](http://cmoonhsu.members.beeb.net)

## Easy kit

Lucy Andrews answers your questions

"I enjoy gardening but as each year passes it gets more difficult. Can you give me advice and suggestions for garden tools that are easier to use?"



First, look at the design of your garden. Uneven steps or crooked pathways can be hazardous. Portapath from Queenswood Products, tel: 01568 611281, [www.queenswood.co.uk](http://www.queenswood.co.uk) is temporary paving, made of polypropylene slats, which can be used over soft ground or to divide a wide flowerbed.

Low-level beds can be difficult to reach, so consider raising soil to an easier level. You could make a surround using standard building materials, or contact a specialist suppliers such as MCI Temply, tel: 01279 842288.

Consider if the tasks you do can be done in a different way. A porous hose that allows water to seep out slowly can be laid along vegetable patches to make watering easier. Hozelock tel: 01844 292002, [www.hozelock.com](http://www.hozelock.com)

Sitting or kneeling may be more comfortable. Many garden kneelers reverse to become a stool. Some stools are on wheels; others incorporate storage. Wheeled garden seat by Homecraft Ability One, tel: 01623 757555

[www.homecraftabilityone.com](http://www.homecraftabilityone.com)

Many garden tools are made of lightweight materials or are more durable, such as fibreglass or stainless steel. B&Q have soft grip and long handled tools for weeding and pruning. Spear & Jackson make a spade with a longer shaft to reduce bending and an angled handle to improve leverage. Also try more specialist suppliers such as Peta (UK) (easi-grip trowel, see top left), tel: 01245 231118, [www.peta-uk.com](http://www.peta-uk.com) and Fiskars UK, tel: 01656 655595, [www.fiskars.com](http://www.fiskars.com)

Wheelbarrows with two front wheels are easier to balance and a pram-style handle can be used one-handed. Iball Wholesale, tel: 01794 517820.

Lastly, a long handled grabber will pick up garden rubbish to save you bending. Medesign, tel: 01704 542373, [www.medesign.co.uk](http://www.medesign.co.uk)

The DLF has published the latest edition of *A Garden for You*, £6, tel: 0895 130 9177, or see [www.dlf.org.uk](http://www.dlf.org.uk) Lucy Andrews is a senior advisor at the DLF.

The Sensory Garden Project in Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, has been specially created for disabled people. It is easily accessible and low maintenance, as well offering a tranquil space that includes a healing garden. Various influences from around the world have been incorporated, such as feng shui layouts and a US-style deck and hot tub. Sensory features include windchimes and a waterfall. The website charts the development of the project, and includes a virtual guided tour of the garden. It is open to the public on a few days this year under the National Gardens Scheme: the next open day is 23 May. The site also includes information on other local attractions and events. See [www.sensory-garden.com](http://www.sensory-garden.com), email [info@sensory-garden.com](mailto:info@sensory-garden.com) or tel: 01782 413351.

**WWW.TOYTALKDIRECT.COM**

**Toy Talk Limited**

**Resource material for Therapy & Education for people of all ages.**

**Early Development, Speech and Language, Phonology and Dysfluency.**

**Aphasia and Head Injuries**

**Social Skills**

**Learning Disabilities**

**Autistic Spectrum Disorders**

**Colorcards**

**Group Work, Mental Health, Elderly Care**

For further information, or to request a catalogue, visit our website or Telephone

**01280 704000**

**Visit us at our stands**

**D19 for our Range of Lifestyle**

**OS27 for our vehicle adaptations**

**FOR A TOTAL MOBILITY SOLUTION TO SUIT YOU!**

**For further advice literature and possible demonstration call**

**01442 212918**

**www.steeringdevelopments.co.uk**









# Boy racer

16-year-old Douglas Stone's ambition is to be one of the UK's top disabled athletes. As he prepares for this year's Marathon, mum Jacky explains that parents of an athlete must be equally committed

**M**y son Douglas decided to become a wheelchair athlete while watching the TV coverage of the 2000 Sydney Paralympics. It was the first time he'd seen wheelchair racing and he was hooked immediately.

What do you do as parents when your son suddenly develops an all-consuming passion; especially when it's for something you know little about? We were lucky. We made a few phone calls and discovered that there were two experienced coaches of disabled athletes at our local track. So on a cold January evening, we ventured down to the track in Enfield and took Douglas to his first ever training session. From then on, Tuesday night became athletics night.

The more Douglas improved at his Tuesday night sessions, the more we all realised that his wheelchair needed to be replaced. Day chairs aren't designed for racing and we knew that if Douglas was to take up the sport seriously, he



Douglas (centre) with dad Trevor and mum Jacky

would need a racing chair. Again, luck was on our side. We were offered a third-hand chair at a bargain price; it wasn't a perfect fit but it was a great start. The purchase of a cycling helmet and racing gloves completed the essentials and Douglas hasn't looked back since.

across London to the track in Catford, but it's great for Douglas socially and it gives us a chance to chat with the other parents.

Wheelchair athletics can be a costly business and working racing chairs into the family budget isn't always easy. Last year, we applied for sponsorship from a couple of charities to help towards the purchase of a new chair and The Lord's Taverners offered to help us. Douglas' new chair is his pride and joy and joins all the other bits and pieces of sports equipment that have taken up permanent residency in our house.

The better an athlete becomes, the more training seems to be involved, and

**'Wheelchair athletics can be a costly business and working racing cars into the family budget isn't always easy'**

Now, four years on, he trains twice a week. On Tuesdays he trains alone, but on Saturday he can train with other young athletes. It's a bit of a trek

Douglas has recently joined the local gym to add another training session to his schedule. The top athletes train every day and Douglas' ambition is to be



**Douglas writes:** I've had a go at lots of sports but wheelchair racing is the one I enjoy the most. Training is tough, especially when it's freezing cold, but the hard work is worth it when I improve my times in competitions. I like to hear the cheer at the end of a race – it gives you a real boost, even if your arms feel as if they are about to drop off! That's one of the reasons I enjoy the London Mini Marathon so much; because the crowd encourage you all the way and help you put in that little bit extra.

one of those top athletes.

His ambition means that we, the parents, need to be prepared to give our time to take him and his chair to several training sessions a week. We also need to give up our weekends to take him to around 12 competitions a year. These competitions can be anywhere in the country and the number increases all the time. Last year, his father went to Switzerland with him for a competition, the first of what will probably be many trips overseas.

We love watching him compete and enjoy encouraging him in training so give up our time willingly, but I can

understand that it can be difficult for some parents. The cost of travelling around the country, sometimes staying overnight, also mounts up and understandably puts some parents off.

Douglas is getting to the age now when he can't wait until he can drive, when his mobility allowance and more will be spent on a car and petrol to get to all of these events. Although it'll be nice to have a whole heap of our time freed up, I'm sure I'm still going to want to go along to cheer him on.

The sporting focus this month is the London Mini Marathon, a highlight of the athletic calendar, certainly for me. It's a really fun day that everyone seems to enjoy. To compete, you need to use a manual wheelchair (lots use day chairs); be between the ages of 11 and 17 and able to push 3km in under 54 mins. The whole day is tightly timed; each race has its own time slot so there is no chance of the young wheelchair users getting caught up in the masses that take part in the Marathon itself. The children have all sorts of disabilities and abilities and they are cheered on all the way by the crowd which is already gathered when they set off at 9am.

As an introduction to wheelchair athletics, the race is great and I would encourage any parent to get their child involved if they can. There are usually about 40 competitors but I would love to see a hundred or more take part. I'm sure they would all enjoy it and while it might not be the start of a great athletic career, it doesn't have to be. For many, it will be a one off event in their lives but I bet it will be one they will never forget.

• British Wheelchair Racing Association, tel: 01642 476169

## Freedom, Independence & Reliability



100's of nearly new machines in stock at prices to suit all pockets. Interest free credit available on selected models, subject to status.

**for further help and advice  
freephone 0800 0746834**

[www.power-chairs.com](http://www.power-chairs.com)

## Powerchairs

Est. 1982

MOBILITY CONSULTANTS

### Powerchairs promise to you:

- Part exchange welcome.
- Free home assessments.
- Free 12 months insurance on new models.
- No VAT.
- No Driving License required.
- Finance available on request.
- We stock machines that carry up to 39 stone weight limit.
- Up to 8mph for road use.
- Up to 50 miles on one battery charge.
- Automatic battery charge included.
- All major credit cards accepted.

**UNIQUE PRICE GUARANTEE  
THAT YOU CAN'T BUY  
CHEAPER ANYWHERE**



# Where will you find the right adapted vehicle?



**Vauxhall Agila Liberty**

Wheelchair accessible compact car

**£9995**

- A fully accessible compact car
- Options for up to 4 seats
- Easy to drive & easy to park
- Stylish & dignified transportation
- Amazingly low running costs
- Superb value for money

**Fiat Doblo Liberty**

Wheelchair accessible estate

**£8190**



- Best value in the UK
- 5 seats as standard
- Petrol or diesel options
- Up to 61" of head-room
- Loads of space

## Price

"Our aim a Jubilee has always been to offer the best engineered products and the very best value for money."

**VW Sharan / Alhambra Liberty**

Wheelchair accessible luxury MPV

**£19795**



- The ultimate accessible MPV
- Spacious and stylish
- Lifts, ramps or low floor
- True luxury motoring
- Elegant & practical
- 5 seats as standard
- Beautifully engineered
- Elegant and discreet
- Drives superbly
- Diesel & automatic options
- No compromise - true luxury



**Volkswagen New Caravelle**

Wheelchair accessible luxury MPV

**£18,995**

## Quality

"It is widely recognized in the industry that Jubilee supply the highest quality accessible vehicles at the most reasonable prices."

## The biggest choice of quality used adapted vehicles in the UK

Low mileage Used Accessible Vehicles

Ford Combi  
Renault Kangos  
Suzuki Wagon Libertys  
Renault Trafics  
Volkswagen Cruisers  
Toyota Hi Aces  
Nissan Vannettes  
Fiat Ulysse Libertys  
Peugeot Experts  
Volkswagen Sharans

Ford Galaxys  
Renault Espaces  
Vauxhall Agilas  
Citroen Berlingos  
Volkswagen Caravelles  
Mercedes V Class  
Citroen Dispatches  
Fiat Doblos  
Renault Extras  
Chrysler Voyagers

Plus lots, lots more.....



Why not come and see for yourself?

## Choice

"We have a huge choice of low mileage, high quality pre owned adapted mobility vehicles on site a Jubilee, ready to go. Please give us a call or check out our web-site for full details."



**Mercedes Benz Vaneo Liberty**

Wheelchair accessible luxury MPV

**£18995**

- Up to 60" of rear head-room
- Automatic gear-box option
- 4 seats come as standard
- Option for diesel automatic
- Truly stylish and discreet
- Amazing value for money

**NEW Kangoo 'Family'**

Low floor accessible car

**£13,995**



- 5 seats come as standard
- Superbly engineered adaptations
- The most stylish Kangoo ever
- Super easy wheelchair access
- The ultimate Family Kangoo

## Style

"At Jubilee, we don't accept that there is a need to compromise on style or comfort for the sake of wheelchair accessibility. Our adaptations are always subtle, practical and elegant."

**Vexel Quovis**



**£13495**

- Independent transportation
- Fully automated access
- Electronic assisted controls
- Economical diesel engine
- Early delivery available

Fully automated compact car

Easy to access & drive

2 additional passengers

Dignified, stylish & practical

The ultimate 'wheelchair driver'

**Suzuki Life**



## Innovation

"We are rapidly becoming the UK market leader for 'Wheelchair Driver' cars and MPV's. Our range is always expanding and our compact Suzuki Life or revolutionary new Quovis are unique."

PLUS... DON'T FORGET  
all of our vehicles are available on our LOW  
even NO DEPOSIT Mobility Finance Plans

Brochures : finance quotations : stock lists : general enquiries

**0121 502 2252**

Home demonstrations and test drives **0781 210 0059**

• Motability

Call NOW

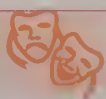
**Jubilee Automotive Group**

www.jubileeauto.co.uk

Jubilee Automotive Group Ltd, Woden Road South, Wednesbury, West Midlands, WS10 0NQ. Opening hours Mon-Fri 9 to 6 pm, Sat 9 to 2 pm. Prices shown presume exemption from VAT and Disabled Road Tax. Vehicles shown may have optional specification..



## Theatre



## Endgame



Samuel Beckett's welcome intrusion into a large West End theatre makes a refreshing change from the mainstream and commercial fare that abounds, and the apocalyptic vision offered by *Endgame* serves as a vital reminder of an alternative and groundbreaking theatre tradition. Absurdity, misery, despair and desolation run throughout, with snatches of humour highlighting the inherent tragedy of existence. A frolicking, thigh-slapping good night out, this is not.

All four characters flail helplessly against the march of time. Escape is not an option,

as all are physically, psychologically and hierarchically locked into their own struggles to survive. Centre stage is Hamm, immobilised and blind, barking orders to his oppressed Clov, who is unable to sit down, and constantly thwarted by inanimate objects; ladders and telescopes serving to confuse and exasperate. The picture is completed by Nagg and Nell (pictured right), who are both legless and consigned to dustbins, commenting on the main action.

Impairment and imprisonment are both part of the human condition while disability serves as a legacy of deterioration. In this production, as in most, none of the characters are played by disabled actors. This must change, and add further



MANUEL HARLAN

dimension and debate to the work of Beckett.

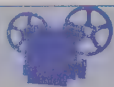
Michael Gambon is magnificent as Hamm, the desperate and demonic conductor. Lee Evan's Clov is an abundance of ambiguous physicality and contortion, as he strives to fulfill his master's every want. Supported by Geoffrey Hutchings and Liz

Smith – as the desperate clowns in dustbins – a weird and exciting theatricality underpins the play. This is stimulating and thought-provoking stuff – not your average West End night out!

**Jamie Beddard**

• Until 8 May, Albery theatre, tel: 0870 060 6621, [www.theambassadors.com](http://www.theambassadors.com)

## Film



## Les Diabes



*Les Diabes* (*The Devils*) begins as a touching and believable account of the lives of two young teenagers on the run from the French care system.

Joseph and his autistic sister Chloe have spent their lives being shunted from one institution to another and attempting to escape in search of their true home where Joseph imagines she will be "cured".

The film paints a moving



picture of an interdependency which is less straightforward than it appears; while Joseph (Vincent Rottiers) is fiercely protective of his sister, believing she cannot survive without him, it becomes clear that the dream he is chasing has more to

do with his own needs than hers and that his sense of duty towards her gives him a necessary sense of purpose.

Joseph's pain and isolation are the most moving and credible aspects of the film, drawing a remarkable performance from a boy who director Christophe Ruggia apparently plucked from obscurity skateboarding on a Paris street.

But 13-year-old Adele Haenel's portrayal of the autistic Chloe is too confused, ranging inexplicably from a *Rainman*-influenced nervous detachment to boisterous

affection and stranger-hugging.

The film soon spirals out of control as Joseph and his street kid friends stage an implausible rescue of Chloe from a psychiatric hospital and the plot turns into a manic spree of robbery, arson and hostage-taking. By the end, harrowing realism has morphed into *Bonnie and Clyde*, leaving the audience gagging to leave the rollercoaster.

Ruggia's film won awards at both Cannes and Chicago, but it's hard not to see it as just another case of disability acting as a passport to critical success.

**Nuala Calvi**

## TV



An embarrassment of riches this month. Drama-wise, BBC1's *Casualty* had an interesting Down's storyline: a woman had drunk bleach in an attempt to abort her unborn baby and in *ER* (C4) Gallant's sister (who has MS) got to bin off aspiring suitor Pratt.

I didn't know what to make of BBC2's *Nighty Night* – a very black comedy about terminal illness and MS – but a friend of mine with MS thinks it's hilarious. Meanwhile BBC1's 50s-set drama *Born and Bred* even wheeled in an iron lung for a polio storyline.

Benedict Cumberbatch was convincing as BBC1's *Hawking*, a drama documenting the extraordinary life of the scientist given two years to live 40 years ago because of motor neurone disease.

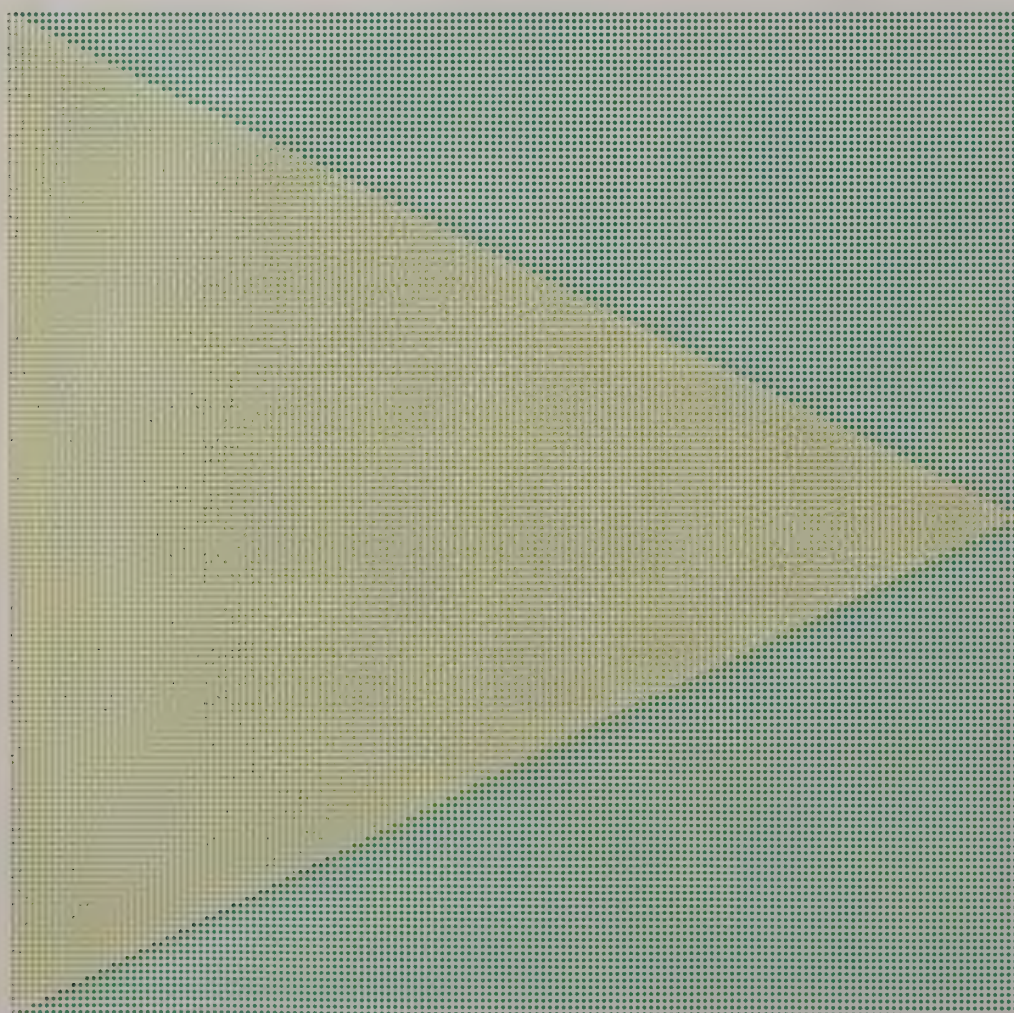
On the factual side, there were some fascinating documentaries. BBC4's *The Guinea Pig Club* featured the work of pioneering WW2 plastic surgeon Archibald McIndoe who recognised the key importance of the psychological effects on men disfigured in battle.

C4's *The Boy Whose Skin Fell Off* had, in his own words, a "dodgy shell". Jonny Kennedy died of skin cancer aged 36 having suffered a lifetime of torture with a hideous genetic skin condition called EB. Humorous to the end, Jonny commented wryly that "constant wanking doesn't go well with it".

Jonny's mother and brother were very sensitively handled by *Richard and Judy* on C4, as was the wonderful Alison Lapper, the chosen subject of London's fourth plinth. BBC4's *Trafalgar Square: Carry On Plinthing* was a witty gander through the competition with geeky but acerbic presenter Ben Lewis.

Mat Fraser popped up again on C4, somewhat denting his "cheeky chappy hard man" image in the moving documentary *Happy Birthday Thalidomide*, which saw him travel to Brazil where the drug which dramatically shortened his arms is still used to treat leprosy and cancer. In Brazil, anyone proving their mother took the drug during pregnancy (resulting in the distinctive limb defects) can claim £250 a month pension. In a country where some people earn only £2 a day, it's like winning the lottery.

**Jane Shepherd**



bp



## BP within reach.

Each year, we make highlights from our annual report available on CD and audio cassette for our visually impaired audience. For a free CD or audio cassette of BP's Annual Report and Accounts 2003 please telephone our Distribution Services on 0870 241 3269.



# A pain of an album

Jonathan Wingate meets jazz legend and 70s wild child John Martyn

He has been making his mellifluous mix of folk and jazz music since the late 60s and has recorded 22 studio albums including classics like *Solid Air* and *One World*. Yet a year after having his right leg amputated below the knee, when a cyst became infected as a result of receiving an electric shock from his guitar amplifier, John Martyn isn't feeling too positive about his latest offering, *On The Cobbles*.

"I can't actually remember making it much," he explains, nursing the first of several glasses of red wine at home in Kilkenny, a couple of hours drive from Dublin. "I was up to my arsehole in painkillers, and my leg was dropping off. It was horrible. I didn't need or want to be in that position, but I did need the f\*\*\*\*\* money. To be doing anything for the money is disgusting."

"I'm not saying it's a bad album, but I think I could have done it better if I'd have been in better shape. Seriously, if you've got septicaemia going through your body, you do not feel too f\*\*\*\*\* cool," he says, screaming with pain as he moves in his chair.

How has losing your leg changed you? "It's changed my everyday existence, that's for sure. It's just the pure physical nonsense of it all. It hasn't changed my brainbox at all. Well, it might have made me a touch more depressed."

"I'm not a sad person, generally. I've always tried to be up for it and bright. It's a pain in the arse. It did really take the

wind out of my sails."

Fans of his breathtakingly beautiful, romantic music should rest assured however, safe in the knowledge that musicians are often not the best judges of their own output. *On The Cobbles* is actually his best album in a long time.

"Some people keep diaries, I make records. There's the odd twist towards the poetic idea, but it never worked for me. It's all autobiographical, if you listen to the songs. But I don't really listen to my records."

John Martyn started playing guitar and writing music at a young age. "My parents were both light operatic singers, so there was music around the house all the time," he recalls. "In those days, every proper house had a piano, and every Sunday, my aunties would do their party piece. When I was 14, I copped Joan Baez singing *The Silver Dagger*. Then, a year later, I copped Davey Graham, which just blew me straight away."

"I begged my daddy to buy me a guitar, although he made me pay for it, because we weren't too rich. I had a paper round and a milk round in the mornings, so I saved up the money. I was so keen, it was

**'If you've got septicaemia going through your body, you do not feel too f\*\*\*\*\* cool'**

silly. I used to run all the way home from school at lunch, and I'd just tootle about."

Since Martyn left his native Glasgow and emerged in 1967 with his debut album, *London*



LAWRENCE WATSON

*Conversation*, his bad boy reputation has followed him everywhere. "Perhaps if I'd drunk coffee all my life, I'd have been a superstar," he once said.

At one point in the 70s, he woke up and found himself nailed under a carpet after a particularly wild night out with his bassist and partner in crime, Danny Thompson.

"I belted him round the kipper and took half his jaw off. He came up and decked me and made me unconscious. Then I woke up under this big carpet. I had to wriggle myself free, and then I went downstairs and kicked him really hard."

"We were both a bit vicious at that time," John Martyn laughs. "Danny used to give hotel managers £50 and say: 'That's for the damage.' What damage? 'There f\*\*\*\*\* will be.'"

*On The Cobbles* is out now on *Independiente*.

## What's on

### Film

**Radio** – heartwarming story of learning disabled sportsman Radio (Cuba Gooding Jr) and his relationship with head coach Jones (Ed Harris). From 14 May.

**The Station Agent** – award-winning story about height restricted station agent Fin McBride (Peter Dinklage). Unusual, touching and memorable. Out now.

**Zatoichi** – gripping tale of blind samurai warrior is a must-see. Written, directed by and starring Takeshi Kitano (DN March). Out now.

### Theatre

**Vocaleyes** – the audio description service for people with visual impairments is touring the UK with *Cats for Kids*, a theatre education programme bringing the famous musical to visually impaired 10-16 year olds.

In Southampton on 6 May and Bristol on 26 May, Tel: 020 7261 9199 or email: [enquiries@vocaleyes.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@vocaleyes.co.uk)

**Giant Productions** – This sensory theatre company for kids with disabilities is touring Scotland with *Up the Stairs and In the Attic*, a multi-sensory tale of the imaginative worlds children create at home.

From 17 May, Tel: 0141 334 2000, email: [karen@giantproductions.org](mailto:karen@giantproductions.org)

### Exhibitions

**Moving Centre Stage** – Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts is holding a conference, Moving Centre Stage, from 6-8 May. Speeches, workshops and films will focus on exploring opportunities for disabled people in the performing arts. Tel: 0151 330 3379, [www.lipa.ac.uk/effectingchange](http://www.lipa.ac.uk/effectingchange)

## Wanted!

The BBC Drama Series casting department is setting up a disabled actors database.

All disabled actors are welcome to join, so if you've always watched TV and secretly thought you could do better, now's your chance to prove it.

• Send in details, including a CV and photograph, to: David Pain, Room DG 20, BBC Centre House, Wood Lane, London, W12 8SB.



Graeae theatre company has launched Missing Piece 4, a performing arts training programme for aspiring actors with sensory and physical disabilities. Run in partnership with London Metropolitan University, where the programme will be based, the nine-month project will run annually, starting in September 2004, followed by a touring production in June 2005.

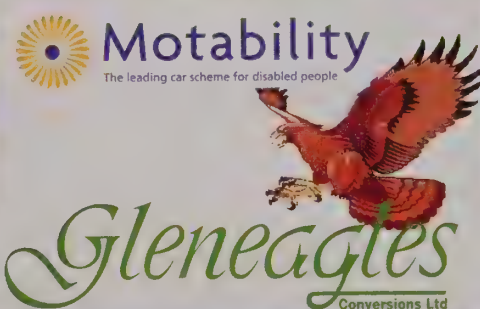
• For more information, tel: 020 7697 7928, email: [judith@graeae.org](mailto:judith@graeae.org), or see [www.graeae.org](http://www.graeae.org). Applications to be received by 7 May.

## Scotland's Premier Specialist Vehicle Converter



RENAULT KANGOO

Tel No: 01334 657722  
Fax No: 01334 657711



CHRYSLER VOYAGER

95 Bonnygate Cupar  
Fife KY15 4LG



For more information on our wide range of New & Used Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles. Please telephone us or visit our website at

[www.gleneaglesconversions.co.uk](http://www.gleneaglesconversions.co.uk)



# 'The best thing I've done'

After spending years at home, Judi Spencer-Scott, who has diabetes and agoraphobia, worried she'd lost her confidence. But with the right training and support, she has retrained as a childcare worker in a Manchester crèche

I've spent most of my life caring for children, both my own and in my extended family. I enjoy watching kids use imaginative play to learn and develop, and working in childcare has allowed me to use my experience and the skills I have acquired to support children through their early years.

I realised childcare was a realistic option for me, despite my disabilities, thanks to the help from my local Early Years Childcare Development Partnership (EYDCP). They advised me on taking the right courses and even helped me to buy new clothes, as I hadn't been out of the house for so long. I was too nervous to go on my own on the first day of the Making Choices course, so I was escorted to the venue.

I was supported right through the course and when I was offered a job they even

helped me to organise benefits, tax credits and travel to and from work. A local action team helped with my living expenses until I received my first wage.

This support was vital and it is available to anyone who needs it. Access to Work pay for my taxi every day; without it getting to work would be impossible. The team works closely with my employer, helping to overcome any difficulties and carrying out disability awareness sessions with other staff. I can also have counselling from the welfare adviser at the Chrysalis project – a local community centre.

The support is invaluable because my confidence has been knocked so many times. I have had to re-learn trust in people, share problems and be assertive again, which has been a steep mountain to climb. The manager of the Chrysalis project has been really important in understanding and



"The job has given my life a new meaning": Judi with the kids in Moss Side, Manchester

guiding me within my work.

My working day begins at about 9.30am. I greet the children and set up activities, such as water and construction toys, and prepare their snacks. The rest of my day will be spent in curriculum-based activities like creative play and story telling. I change nappies,

see to the children's general welfare and ensure that they are happy and safe in a friendly, caring environment.

I also take part in regular meetings about community issues, which may involve staff from the project.

It's important to me that I treat children as individuals. I believe that to work with kids you need to be able to respect them and show them right from wrong. You need to be caring, trusting and loyal to their needs. I think working through my own disability has

place has allowed me to feel no different from my colleagues, despite my disabilities. At staff meetings my ideas on improving our childcare provision are taken up, which makes me feel a valued member of the team. The job has shown that I am a person with abilities and can make a difference by helping others, even with my disabilities. The job has given my life a new meaning.

My family are very proud of me. They say they always knew I had potential and they see me as their heroine because of my

**'I am a person with abilities and can make a difference by helping others, even with my disabilities'**

really helped me relate to children's needs.

But the main challenge in my work comes from working with adults, not the children. I have been isolated for 27 years because of my agoraphobia, and my shyness can be an added obstacle for me. The support I've received from everyone on the course and at the crèche has really brought me out of my shell. The courses gave me skills that I need to do the job and a belief in myself that I didn't have before. I still have problems, but close guidance from my colleagues allows me to be positive about my abilities.

Having a job that I want to do and that I believe I'm good at is wonderful. Being properly trained to do the job is important for my self-respect, and makes me feel proud.

The support network in

courage and determination.

Childcare has completely changed my life, which at first was a hugely frightening prospect. It can be scary embarking on a new venture, especially when you have spent years at home in poor health, as I had. You lose your confidence and some of your social skills. But this is the best thing I have ever done – I've widened my horizons, realised that I've got potential, gained confidence, made friends and now the world feels like my oyster. The hardest thing was walking through the college doors on the first day, but it was also the best thing.

• To find out more about a career in early years, childcare and playwork, call the National Childcare Recruitment freephone number 0800 996600 for an info pack.



## The Solicitors Room .com

An online nationwide panel of solicitors acting for disabled clients through secure and confidential online files on which the client will be able to take advice and monitor progress.

All areas of law covered from 'No Win/No Fee' personal injury to conveyancing, wills, company law, family law, crime, benefits etc

No charge for clients to register. All legal fees, if any, are as agreed with the referred solicitors.

Launched in association with Disability Alliance - Register at [www.TheSolicitorsRoom.com](http://www.TheSolicitorsRoom.com)

**or tel: 0870 33 00 00 3**

Service provided by The Claim Room.com Ltd, Dallam Court, Dallam Lane, Warrington Cheshire UK WA2 7LT  
01925 422942 - [www.TheClaimRoom.com](http://www.TheClaimRoom.com)



# Versa

WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE VEHICLES...

...UNIQUE TO

## WIDNES CAR CENTRE LIMITED

**STYLE, COMFORT, CONVENIENCE AND SAFETY MAKES OUR RANGE THE BENCHMARK OF QUALITY...**



The leading car scheme for disabled people

*All our vehicles are superbly equipped, backed with an exceptional build quality that will give you peace of mind.*

The NEW VW T5  
**ORDERS NOW BEING TAKEN**

**OPEN DAY**  
23rd May  
11.00am-5.00pm

The NEW Renault Master Extras  
• Re designed front end & dashboard  
• ABS • Drivers airbag • Alarm  
• Dashboard mounted gear stick

RENAULT MASTER (NEW SHAPE)  
2.5 D.C.I. turbo diesel



**£16,995** on the road

RENAULT TRAFIC  
1.9 D.C.I. diesel, ABS standard



**£14,750** on the road

RENAULT KANGOO  
1.2 petrol authentique



**£10,495** on the road



**£14,995** on the road

The ALL NEW Mercedes Benz VITO  
ABS, also available in Automatic



**£17,495 & £19,495 (Auto)** on the road

TOYOTA HIACE\* (LVTA)  
2.5 C.D.I. turbo diesel, ABS



**£14,950** on the road

**WE PURCHASE GOOD QUALITY USED VEHICLES**

Contact us on the number below

**THESE ARE JUST A SELECTION OF OUR FINE QUALITY USED VEHICLES**

MAKE/MODEL	REG NO.	COLOUR	SPECIFICATION	MILEAGE	£
Nissan Vanette Versa 2.3 Diesel	S564 AKC	Red	4 Seats, Ramp	43,000	6,495
VW 800 1.9 Turbo Diesel Versa	Y579 HWB	Red	4 Seats, Tail Lift	15,631	11,495
VW 800 1.9 Turbo Diesel Versa	X495 AKU	Green	4 Seats, Ramp/L/F Q.S	35,229	9,995
VW 800 1.9 Turbo Diesel Versa	PN02 XNW	Red	4 Seats, Tail Lift, Tracking	12,309	12,995
VW 800 1.9 Turbo Diesel Versa	S649 RKU	Green	5 Seats, Ramp	31,000	7,995
VW 800 1.9 Turbo Diesel LWB Versa	R684 YHL	Green	4 Seats, Tail Lift & 2 Wheelchair positions	32,000	7,995
VW 2.5 TDI SWB, Auto	W326 NWA	Green	4 Seats, Ramp, D/F Winch	13,979	11,995
Toyota HiAce 2.4 Diesel	X412 YDM	White	5 Seats, Tail Lift	24,835	10,995
Toyota HiAce 2.5 GL	DE52 NSZ	Red	3 Seats, Tail Lift	16,054	12,995
NEW Renault Trafic 1.9 Diesel Versa	PN52 XDD	Blue	4 Seats, Ramp, Winch	16,000	11,995

- ALL VEHICLES ARE PREPARED AND VALETED • 6 MONTHS WARRANTY
- ALL SECURING EQUIPMENT INCLUDED

ALL PRICES ASSUME VAT AND ROAD FUND LICENSE ZERO RATING.

VW & MERCEDES ARE AVAILABLE AS AUTOMATICS. \*(LVTA)-LOW VOLUME TYPE APPROVED

For further information; FREE Brochure pack or to arrange a demonstration please contact Philip Beecham, Mike Jones, Simon Fletcher or David Connor (New Versa Enquiries), Phil Hawkins (Used Versa Specialist).

**VERSA SALES 0151 420 2000**

Widnes Car Centre Limited, Moor Lane, Widnes Cheshire WA8 7AL

**FAX: 0151 495 1382**

website: [www.wheelchair-access.co.uk](http://www.wheelchair-access.co.uk)

e-mail: [versa@wheelchair-access.co.uk](mailto:versa@wheelchair-access.co.uk)

MONDAY - FRIDAY 9.00am - 5.30pm

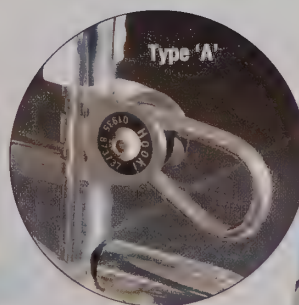


E & OE

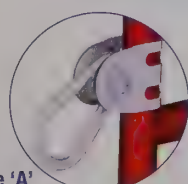
**When travelling in your wheelchair Who decides where to attach the restraint system?**



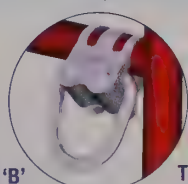
The Brotherwood Hooki fittings offer safe, instantly recognisable attachment points for wheelchair restraint systems, using four anchor points



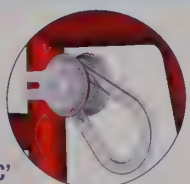
**The New Hooki range of fittings from Brotherwood could be the answer.**



Type 'A'



Type 'B'



Type 'C'

- No welding or special tools are needed to fit the Brotherwood Hooki.
- Light and strong, made in stainless steel for fit-and-forget applications.
- Will fit 90% of tubular framed wheelchairs.



Type 'B'

**Brotherwood - Hooki** Lambert House, Pillar Box Lane, Beer Hackett, Sherborne, Dorset, DT9 6QP [www.hooki.co.uk](http://www.hooki.co.uk)

Hooki order/help line - Tel: 01935 873737 • Fax: 01935 873040 • E-mail: [sales@hooki.co.uk](mailto:sales@hooki.co.uk)

[www.brotherwood-hooki.com](http://www.brotherwood-hooki.com)



# Deaf people get a hearing

Nokia's Communicator 9210i, with the RNID's award winning mobile textphone software, allows deaf, hard of hearing and speech impaired people to hold real time, interactive conversations while on the move. Jamie Trounce reports

**T**he new mobile textphone allows two people to communicate by phone using text in "real time". The textphone has a keyboard and display screen, and instead of speaking into a mouthpiece you type what you want to say and read the reply from the screen. A deaf person can communicate with a hearing person using any ordinary landline or mobile with the help of RNID Typetalk.

To make a text call, simply add 18001 to the front of the number you are calling. If you are calling another textphone, you can type messages to the other person in "real time". If you are calling a conventional telephone, you will be connected to a RNID Typetalk operator, who will read your messages to the person you are calling and will then type your replies. In addition, you can contact the emergency services free by calling 18000, the textphone equivalent of 999.

Anyone who wants to call you by text just adds 18002 to the front of your mobile phone number, whether they are calling from a standard Vodafone mobile or a fixed phone line. They will then be connected to a RNID Typetalk operator who



will transform their conversation into text.

You can even call your relatives and friends, or make business calls when you are on the move, whether you are in a pub, café or travelling. It is extremely useful because the normal big chunky minicom is not portable.

Also, 9210i has the facilities for normal phone calls, email, SMS messaging, fax, WAP internet, contacts, a calendar, Office applications (including Word, Sheet e.g. Excel and Presentations Viewer as well as File

Manager) and many accessories such as games and movie players.

The only disadvantage is that it doesn't have a vibration to alert you. But then, again, there are two special devices to tell you when you have got a phone call or SMS: a flashing pen and a vibrating alert pager. However, the vibrating pager is not very useful because it can receive waves from other people's mobiles three metres away from you. Imagine the situation when you are in a pub full of people.

Overall, I think the Nokia Communicator 9210i is a



marvellous and useful textphone because I could never contact my family and friends when I was on the move before, which I think is extremely important; and of course it's good for emergency calls as well.

● *The Nokia 9210i Textphone version is available from*

Vodafone stores for £240 to £380 depending on the price plan selected by the customer. For further information on these products and services, see [www.vodafone.co.uk/textphone](http://www.vodafone.co.uk/textphone) or [www.rnid.org.uk/html/information/technology/nokia9210.htm](http://www.rnid.org.uk/html/information/technology/nokia9210.htm)

*The Vibrating Mouse costs £8.81 (ref: A176) and the flashing pen £13 (ref: A175) from the Solutions Catalogue available from RNID Sound Advantage. Contact [solutions@rnid.org.uk](mailto:solutions@rnid.org.uk), textphone 01733 238020 or phone 0870 789 8855.*

Call type	Pay monthly cost per minute	Pay as you talk cost per minute
Mobile textphone call via 18001 to mobile phones	14p	14p
Mobile textphone call via 18001 to fixed-line phones	3p	8p
Mobile textphone call via 18001 to Vodafone Customer Services	0p	10p
Voice call via 18002 to mobile textphones	35p	35p
Voice call via 18002 to fixed-line textphones	8p	19p
Emergency Services 18000	0p	0p
Directory Assistance (118) numbers	Charged at standard rates	

*Vodafone understand that typing messages takes longer than talking, so they've discounted the cost of standard UK calls through the 18001 service by around 60 per cent. In addition, the first 45 seconds are free.*



45-degree seat tilt with new technology that provides steady and reliable movement.

Street

Full speed ahead with rear wheel drive.

- Rear-wheel driven
- Max. speed 12 km/h
- Built-in safety
- 25 cm seat elevation
- Modular and ergonomic seat design with built-in adjustable supports
- All wheels feature individual suspension for practical and comfortable driving outdoors and indoors



The Art of Mobility

Permobil Ltd.

Unit 4, West Vale Building, Wakefield Rd, Brighouse HD6 1PE

Tel: 01484 722888 Fax: 01484 723013  
sales@permobil.fsbusiness.co.uk www.permobil.com

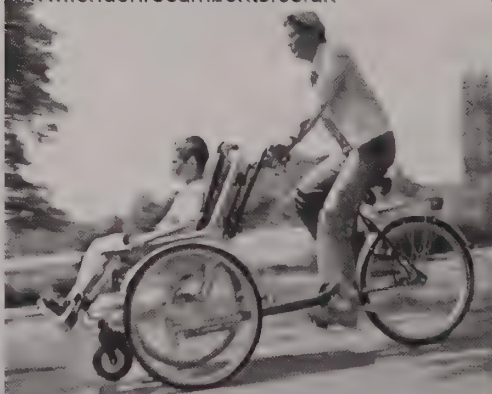


Street

## London Recumbents

[www.londonrecumbents.co.uk](http://www.londonrecumbents.co.uk)

[recumbents@aol.com](mailto:recumbents@aol.com)



Rangers Yard  
Dulwich Park  
London  
SE21 7BQ  
020 8299 6636

A complete range of cycles for people with special needs

## Ashwellthorpe Hall Hotel

Delightful  
Moated  
manor  
house



Situated  
near  
Norwich  
in Norfolk

Wheelchair accessible throughout.

Overhead hoists in some rooms.

Set in acres of beautiful grounds of natural beauty. Close to the Norfolk Broads and within easy reach of seaside resorts such as Great Yarmouth and Cromer.

May to September half board from just £297.50 per week

Special offer for Jan to March three nights for just £99.00 per person

**You can be sure of a warm and friendly welcome**

Ashwellthorpe, Norwich, NR16 1EX

Tel: 01508 489324 Fax: 01508 488409

Email: [manager@ashwellthorpehall.org.uk](mailto:manager@ashwellthorpehall.org.uk) Web Site: [www.ashwellthorpehall.org.uk](http://www.ashwellthorpehall.org.uk)



## The Rear Entry & Wheelchair Friendly "Alfred Bekker" Chrysler Voyager

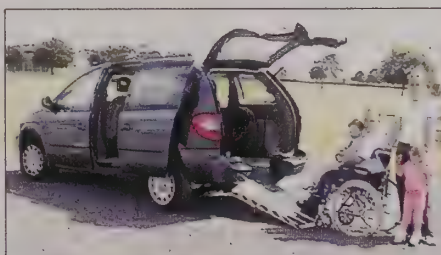
Mobility is the key to FREEDOM and since 1975, Alfred Bekker has been recognised as the leading manufacturer in this field. The "Bekker" Chrysler Voyager is no exception and in many countries this vehicle is the most favoured mode of transport. It is indeed the ultimate provider of accessibility for those seeking comfort, autonomy and long lasting reliability with one of the most luxurious cars on the road.



Drive-in scooter access

The "Bekker" Voyager is a spacious five seater with a rear station measuring 44" by 30" to accommodate a wheelchair seated passenger or unoccupied scooter. If the Voyager is not quite big enough for your needs, there is the larger Grand Voyager with a rear station measuring 54" by 30". There are eleven models in a choice of seven colours and prices start as low as £19,998 for the Voyager 2.4SE, rising to £32,076 for the Grand Voyager 3.3 Limited XS, which is only £76 more than the recommended retail price of a non-converted one.

This roomy and most comfortable five seater can be reverted back into a seven seater if wheelchair passenger or scooter space is not required.



Drive-in wheelchair access

## Hire Vehicles



Hire a Renault Kangoo from £45 per day. See below.

### Renault Kangoo RN 1.4 Manual

2 front seats, folding ramp giving 54" access height and 57" inside headroom. 2 seater with 50" x 32" wheelchair seated passenger or unoccupied scooter station.

£45 per day or £225 per week

### Renault Kangoo RXE 1.6 Auto

2 Front seats and 60/40 split folding rear seats, folding ramp giving 54" access height and 57" inside headroom. 3 seater with 50" x 32" wheelchair seated passenger or unoccupied scooter station or 5 seater without wheelchair passenger or scooter. Hand controls at no extra cost.

£50 per day or £250 per week

Hire a Chrysler Voyager from £70 per day. See below.



### Chrysler Voyager 2.4 SE Manual

Luxurious 4 or 5 seater with air-conditioning, double folding 'easy' ramp giving 51" access height and 55" headroom - 44" by 30" wheelchair seated passenger or unoccupied scooter station.

£70 per day or £350 per week

### Chrysler Grand Voyager 3.3 Ltd Auto

Sheer comfort and autonomy with this top of range 4 or 5 seater Grand Voyager with double folding 'easy' ramp, giving 51" access height and 55" headroom. 54" by 30" wheelchair seated passenger or unoccupied scooter station. No extra charge for hand controls.

£94 per day or £470 per week

## The Bekker Kangoo



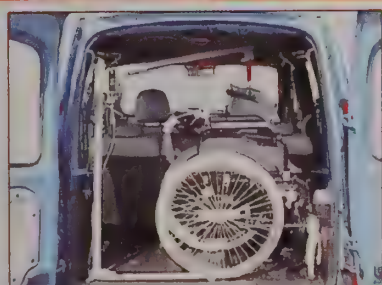
Ideal of those with a limited budget. It comes with a lowered floor, giving 55" access and 57" inside headroom, twin rail ramp, 4-point tiedown and puncture proof tyres. There are many options and prices start as low as £12,622 for the 1.2 16V Authentique.

## The Self Drive Manual Wheelchair Loader



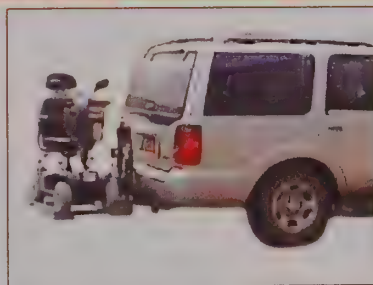
The self drive automatic Kangoo Expression with electric wheelchair loader and hand controls. Only £10,442

## Easy boot hoist



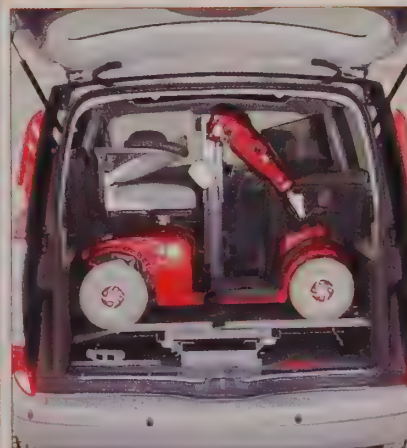
This very practical, adjustable and easy to install boot hoist has a lifting capacity of 200 lbs. It is priced at only £395 + £25 Courier

## Carry all



Choice of 3 models to carry your scooter or wheelchair. Simple drive on platform which can fold up when not in use, or fold side ways when loading the boot. Also useful for carrying bales of hay or straw. Prices start at £1,695 + £45 Courier.

## The Up-and-Down and In-and-Out Rear Entry Lift



A unique special offer package which consists of vehicle, lift and installation

### Renault Kangoo Authentique

1.2 16v ..... £ 9,621  
1.5 dCi 80 ..... £10,225  
1.6 16v Automatic ..... £10,442

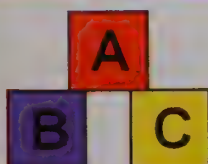
### Chrysler Voyager

2.4 SE ..... £17,582  
2.54 CRD SE ..... £18,604  
3.3 LX ..... £22,012

### Chrysler Grand Voyager

2.5 CRD LX ..... £22,238  
3.3 Limited ..... £26,778  
3.3 Limited XS ..... £29,076

[www.alfredbekker.com](http://www.alfredbekker.com)



**ALFRED BEKKER**

Kellythorpe, Driffild, East Yorkshire  
YO25 9DJ, England

Tel : (01377) 241700  
Fax : (01377) 241767  
Email : [info@alfredbekker.com](mailto:info@alfredbekker.com)

(International : 44 1377 241700)  
(International : 44 1377 241767)



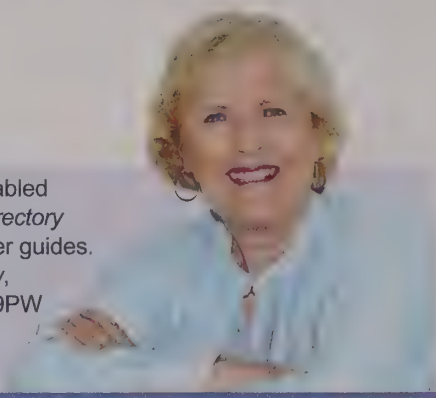


ILLUSTRATION BY CLARE CURTIS

# Dear Ann

- love and loneliness
- bereavement
- personal problems
- advice and support

Ann Darnbrough, who is disabled herself, is co-author of the *Directory for Disabled People* and other guides. Write to her at *Disability Now*, 6 Market Road, London N7 9PW or email your problem to [editor@disabilitynow.org.uk](mailto:editor@disabilitynow.org.uk)



## Companion wanted

I lost my dear husband about three years ago and miss him a lot. I'm lonely and I'm wondering if you could help me find a man or woman for companionship, preferably someone who is within a 30-mile radius of Burnham-on-Sea in Somerset. I am 65 years old, disabled and drive an automatic car.

*Jean, Somerset*

I wish I could find friends and partners for readers who are lonely. But you never know, someone may contact me who would like to be put in touch with you.

The best way to seek a companion is to consider your own particular interests – maybe yours is birdwatching, reading, cooking, music or something else.

Indeed this could be a good time to take up a new interest which you never had time for before. You'll find loads of local clubs with a mass of interests you may never have considered. Your local library will have details. There's nothing like enthusiasm in a particular subject for making friends both female and male.

Have you thought about taking up an evening class? Contact local colleges or your library for a prospectus showing what courses are on offer. It can be a great way to meet new people, as well as learning new things. People of all ages are welcome – the new term starts in September.

Finally, have you considered putting a personal ad in *DN*? It can be a good way to meet people.

You would need to inform them that your private landlord will not consider (and is not obliged to consider) adapting your present accommodation and that you urgently need suitable housing. They would then need to assess the type of accommodation you require to meet your needs.

### Getting on the road

I have cerebral palsy and use a wheelchair. I've got a driving licence and would like to get a Motability car as I get the higher rate of the Disability Living Allowance.

I need financial help to put

down an advance payment on a vehicle. Are there any charities that may be able to help me?

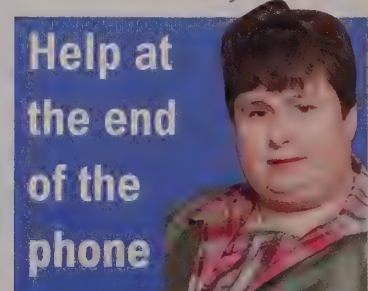
*Phill, email*

Not all Motability cars need an advance payment, but if you need financial help with a car that does, contact Motability who can provide grants towards advance payments, adaptations and driving lessons.

Grants are given towards the least expensive suitable solution to meet your basic mobility needs, although you are normally expected to make a contribution.

You could ask your library for information on trusts that provide grants for local people. There may well find a trust happy to help you.

• Motability, tel: 01279 635999, minicom: 01279 632213, fax: 01279 632000, 8.45am until 5.15pm, Mon to Fri. [www.motability.co.uk](http://www.motability.co.uk)



**Help at the end of the phone**

*DN's telephone counsellor Lin Berwick gives disabled people and carers advice and support on personal and spiritual problems. Disabled herself, Lin is a psycho-therapeutic counsellor and Methodist local preacher, with a postgraduate diploma in homeopathic medicine. If you have something you need to discuss in confidence, talk to her on Mondays 6pm-10pm and Thursdays 1pm-5pm, tel: 01787 882111.*

### Nowhere to run

I used to do a lot of running – up to 75 miles a week. Then I became ill with chest infections. Since then I've been diagnosed with two lung diseases.

Most of the advice I read about keeping fit is aimed at the wealthy or at least those in work. I'm unemployed, can't afford to join a gym and so must train on roads where I may get injured. My doctor says I need to keep as active as possible. Are there places where you can buy reliable second-hand treadmills?

*Tommy, by email*

Start by contacting Unique Sport. They provide portable, adaptable and affordable training equipment to disabled people. They can also help you buy exercise kit with a zero rating for VAT, which will save you 17.5% on the purchase price if you fall into the "chronically sick or disabled" category.

At the same time, you might

find gyms are not as unaffordable as you think. In the UK there are many gyms which offer concessions and packages for people on benefits, such as reduced rates and leisure cards. The Inclusive Fitness Initiative (IFI) have a list of accessible facilities offering discounts and are developing new facilities all the time.

• Unique Sport, tel: 01434 220497, fax: 01434 220953 [www.uniquesport.co.uk](http://www.uniquesport.co.uk)

• IFI tel: 0114 257 2060 or [info@inclusivefitness.org](mailto:info@inclusivefitness.org), [www.inclusivefitness.org](http://www.inclusivefitness.org)

### RADAR hold the key

I've been told that it is possible to purchase a RADAR key that will open locks on disabled toilets across the country. How much is this key and where do I get one from?

*Mrs Smith, Barnsley*

The National Key Scheme, started by the charity RADAR in the 1970s, gives access for disabled people to over 4,000 locked public toilets around

Britain. If you are disabled and can identify your disability, you can obtain the key from RADAR for £3.50.

• RADAR, 12 City Road, 250 City Forum, London EC1V 8AE Tel: 020 7250 3222, fax: 020 7250 0212, minicom: 020 7250. [www.radar.org.uk](http://www.radar.org.uk).

### Landlord won't adapt

I'm having difficulties getting rehoused due to my present landlord's non-cooperation in allowing recommended adaptations to his property. He is also being generally discriminatory against me due to my disability (I use a wheelchair).

*Yorky, by email*

Unfortunately, there is no legal requirement for landlords to change the physical features of their premises. Bearing this in mind, it would be worth getting in touch with your local authority housing department to seek their help in obtaining appropriate alternative accommodation.

## Living independently at home

Christies Care provides help for people who want to remain in their own homes and need help to do so.

- \* Do you want us for a week or two, for months or for years?
- \* Do you want us regularly perhaps two weeks in four?
- \* We monitor regularly to make sure you are happy
- \* 24 hour Duty Manager available
- \* Well trained staff
- \* We visit before we start

[www.christiescare.com](http://www.christiescare.com)  
[mail@christiescare.com](mailto:mail@christiescare.com)

Please ring or e-mail for a discussion or our free booklet **01728 605000**

# New Companion Scooter for 2004

- Good Outdoor Performance.
- Comfortable Seat.
- Good Leg Room.

- Dismantles for Transit.
- Available on Motability.
- Free Home Demonstration.

## FreeRider

working together

For further information ring **01536 443888**

FreeRider (UK) Ltd, Freepost Mtd 16985, Corby, Northants NN17 4BR  
Fax: 01536 443999 E-mail: [info@freerider.co.uk](mailto:info@freerider.co.uk) Web site: [www.freerider.co.uk](http://www.freerider.co.uk)

See us at  
Naidex NEC  
11th-13th May 2004  
Stand No. 500





Brush with success: Jeneper's paintings include (from left) Greystoke in the Mist, Sunburny Country and Blue Gum Forest & Wild Ponies



# Picture perfect



It's never too late to take up a new hobby, says 62-year-old Jeneper Quinn, who began painting after being diagnosed with MS

I've always collected art and wanted to be an artist, but I never thought I had the talent. It wasn't until 1990, in my early 50s, that I plucked up the courage to apply to Newcastle university, one of the most prestigious art schools in Australia. Although I was accepted, by the time the course started, I was too ill to attend. I was eventually diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis. My specialist told me I'd had it since the 1980s, which explained my illnesses and all the wrong diagnoses that occurred during the previous years.

In 1999 I returned to England to be near my family. I moved to Bath where my social worker arranged for me to visit the activity centre at Greenhill House, part of the Leonard Cheshire Foundation in Timsbury, Somerset.

Here, you can do painting or creative writing and so, at the age of 62, I began to paint, encouraged by a local artist who ran the painting class. I had in my mind the sort of paintings I wanted to paint, but I had no idea where my first painting would lead me.

I had spent 25 years in Australia and began a series of paintings that depicted the amazing colours seen in the landscapes and nature of Australia.

I chose watercolours, because a long time ago I'd seen a Turner exhibition at the National Gallery in Canberra and had been inspired by the medium.

I adore using colour and my paintings are unlike the watercolour paintings that you normally see. Most people sketch things first and paint delicate watercolours like

flowers. Mine aren't like that at all. I just go straight in. This is a medium that I find exciting and sometimes uncontrollable; mistakes can turn into something wonderful.

In 2002, I held an exhibition in the new foyer of the Royal United Hospital in Bath with

One great thing that has happened as a result of starting to paint is that my neurologist saw my paintings at the hospital exhibition and, at my next appointment, instead of asking about my health, asked me if I would loan my paintings to the new

## 'It's never too late to explore your creative side'

other members of the Greenhill House Art Group, but after that I was out on my own and I continued to show my paintings during 2002 and 2003. I have had six exhibitions so far.

neurological outpatients unit. After the exhibition had finished, I arranged for 14 paintings to be transferred to the hospital. The idea of putting them up there is to

encourage other people with MS, especially those who have just been diagnosed, that having it isn't the end of the road. If I hadn't had MS I probably wouldn't have painted so many pictures.

I want to say to other disabled people that it's never too late to explore your creative side. I'm a beginner, but I'm so glad I took the plunge: I've made new friends and I've sold pictures at exhibitions and by word of mouth.

I still go to Greenhill House for painting and the creative writing workshop because it is important to me to be with


other disabled people.


Having been inspired by the staff at the activity centre at Greenhill House, I am now writing and illustrating a picture book.

I have recently helped a painter who runs painting courses to rewrite a course book for disabled people\*.

I'm a firm believer that everyone's got a creative side and they just need it unlocked. They need the right person to inspire and encourage them to do something they never thought they could.

\*[www.paintathome.org.uk](http://www.paintathome.org.uk)





## Supporting Disadvantaged and Disabled Young People

**Thursday 24th June 2004, Central London**


**Improving Access to Employment Education and Training**

Disadvantaged and disabled young people face complex barriers in their attempts to become fully active citizens - through education, training, volunteering or paid work. However models of service delivery are being developed which enable excluded, at risk or disabled young people to access training, education and job opportunities.

This conference will discuss ways in which joint working between Social Services, Education providers, Careers and Employment Services - in consultation with young people - can assist in planning and enabling the transition into further education and mainstream or supported employment. The conference will look also at the legal requirements facing employers, and at how to provide greater disability awareness and equal opportunities training among all those concerned with employment

**SPEAKERS INCLUDE**  
**Pete Loewenstein**, Development Officer, national Youth Agency  
**Christopher Holmes MBE**, Disability Rights Commissioner  
**Sue Jex**, Group Head of Employee Propositions and Diversity, HSBC  
**Jan Morrison**, Principal Policy and Practice Officer, Barnardos

For Further Information Contact: Gemma Suter on Tel: 0207 324 4363, Fax: 0207 490 8850, email [gemma.suter@neilstewartassociates.co.uk](mailto:gemma.suter@neilstewartassociates.co.uk)  
[www.neilstewartassociates.com/sg113](http://www.neilstewartassociates.com/sg113)

Official publication: 



## CHARTWELL INSURANCE

## DISABLED DRIVERS' MOTOR CLUB



**A partnership for the best rates & policies**

**MOTOR INSURANCE & LEGAL PROTECTION**

**Adapted Vehicle Specialist**  
**Optional Breakdown Cover @ £49**

**TRAVEL - Best Rates for Disabled People**  
**WHEELCHAIR OR POWERCHAIR/SCOOTER (incl. breakdown)**  
**HOUSEHOLD - Buildings & Contents**  
**COMMERCIAL INSURANCE (incl. Home-working)**

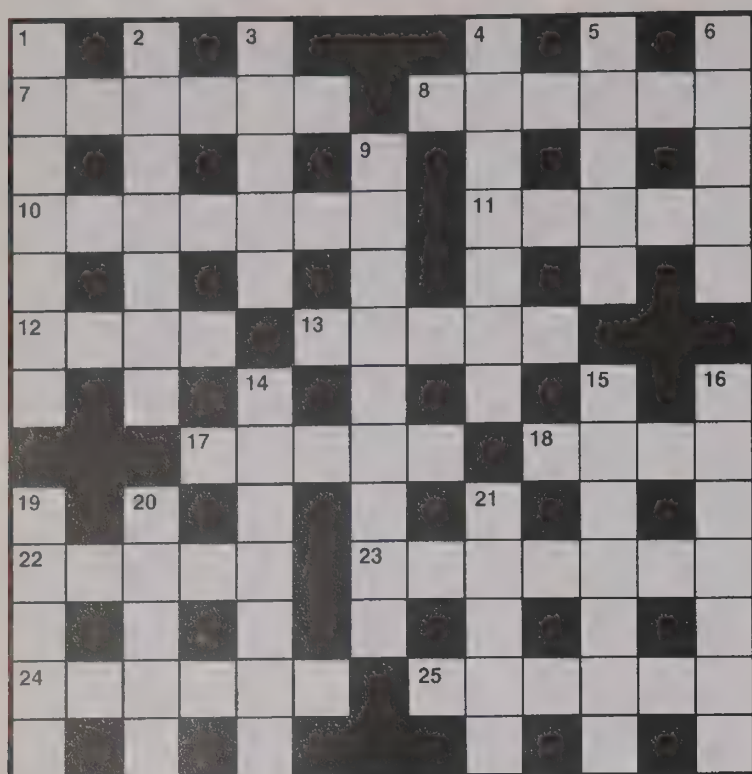
**FREEPHONE 0800 652 4652**



General Insurance

**Visa/Mastercard/Switch/Instalments/Direct Debit**  
**Chartwell House 292/294 Hale Lane, Edgware, Middx, HA8 8NP**  
**web: [www.chartwellinsurance.co.uk](http://www.chartwellinsurance.co.uk)**  
**email: [info@chartwellinsurance.co.uk](mailto:info@chartwellinsurance.co.uk)**  
**ESTABLISHED OVER 35 YEARS**





## ACROSS

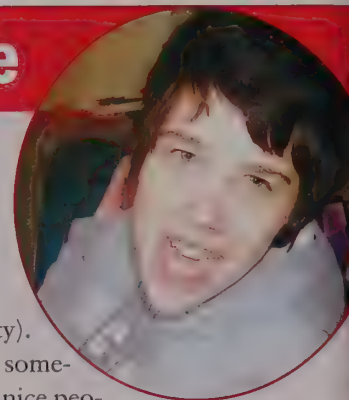
7. See 9 Down  
 8. Material used for the statue mentioned in 9 Down (6)  
 10. Small, active dog (7)  
 11. His films include *Catch Me If You Can* and *Saving Private Ryan* (5)  
 12. See 20 Down  
 13. Bid for a house (5)  
 17. Payments for crossing some bridges (5)  
 18. See 20 Down  
 22. Blacksmith's block (5)  
 23. Person who does not believe in God (7)  
 24. Nonmetallic element occurring as charcoal, graphite and diamond (6)  
 25. Britain's leading disability theatre company (6)

## DOWN

1. Holder for cigarette stubs (7)  
 2. Person in overall authority (7)  
 3. Orange, apple or banana (5)  
 4. Person responsible for handling money in a bank or shop (7)  
 5. \_\_\_\_ *And Ivory*, a hit single for Paul McCartney with Stevie Wonder (5)  
 6. The nationality of Tom Jones and Shirley Bassey (5)  
 9. **And 7 Across.** Marc Quinn's sculpture of Alison Lapper will be on display here next Spring (9,6)  
 14. See 20 Down  
 15. Figures of speech using "as" or "like" (7)  
 16. Their hit singles include *Get Back* and *Strawberry Fields Forever* (7)  
 19. Month for soldiers on parade? (5)  
 20. **And 18 Across, 14 Down, 12 Across.** BBC romantic drama in which two disabled actors take the lead roles (5,4,3,4,2,2)  
 21. Broken piece of glass or pottery (5)

CROSSWORD BY JIM MCLAREN  
 ANSWERS ON PAGE 40

## Candid Kate



She's got the money, and she's still moaning

**H**elp! I am a disabled person. Get me out of this authority (which doesn't respect my authority). Day (approximately) 7,480. Today something amazing happened: the jolly nice people at the student finance department sent me a fat cheque for my taxi fares for the last seven months. (Insert banners, champagne and a general party atmosphere.) The best bit about the story is I only went up to stage 999 of the complaints system out of 1,000. Stage 1,000 is release hell at the council, which gets quite wearing after the tenth time (trust me, been there, done it and wear the T-shirt so much it is torn).

Anyway, I will talk about my life at university (if you think it is boring you should try living it). Meaning I go to lectures and when they stop I go home, whoo hoo. I don't know if that is what I wanted from the greatest time of my life, when people are supposed to make very brilliant friendships. I am really enjoying the learning aspect, though, and I am getting fabulous marks (mostly).

This semester is all about a performance at the end of May. Now it is April and my learning support assistant and I both say we wouldn't pay good money to see it. I am trying to make the thing a success by thinking up original ideas which wow the tutors but leave the other students unimpressed.

Sorry to say I am enjoying being considered intelligent and one of the more able students of the group. (In marked contrast to my secondary school, which went out of its way to prove I was not capable of anything much.)

On the horizon, there is another awful thing, but I suspect you lot have had enough of my moaning. So, I will save it to next month, you lucky, lucky people.

# DN disabilitynow

## Get 15 issues for the price of 12

news • campaigns • features •  
 information • health • holidays  
 • jobs • sports • arts • and  
**DN Extra**, the mid-month  
 recruitment supplement

Call

### 0845 120 7001

or complete the form below and send it to our freepost  
 address **before 31.05.04** for your **FREE** issues



DN is free to those receiving means-tested benefits (income support, housing benefit, council tax exemption, disability working allowance, job seekers allowance).

Please return this form to Disability Now Subscriptions, FREEPOST NATE1512, Somerset, TA11 6ZA.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel No: \_\_\_\_\_

I/We enclose a cheque or postal order for £ \_\_\_\_\_ (Payable to *Disability Now*)

I authorise you to charge my Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ Switch ☐

Card No:           Iss No: (Switch only) \_\_\_\_\_ Valid from: // Expiry date: //

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

DN05/04

Those on means-tested benefits

Individual at home address

Professional/Organisation

Europe

Rest of World

FREE (see details above) ☐ (photocopied proof required)

1 year £18 ☐

1 year £28 ☐

1 year £33 ☐

1 year £35 ☐

Offer applies to one year subs only  
 Multiple copy rates available on request



## What's On

**The National Autistic Society (NAS)** is holding a one-day seminar titled *Structured Teaching in the Home* on 15 May in Glasgow, which will showcase structured teaching approaches from the USA. From £70.50. Book by 30 April. Tel: 0115 911 3367, or email [conference@nas.org.uk](mailto:conference@nas.org.uk). NAS has also launched a new helpline offering a more accessible information and support service (tel: 0845 070 4004), and a Parent to Parent scheme, based in Bristol and covering the South West and Wales area, which is a telephone support service for parents provided by volunteer parents (tel: 0800 9 520 520). National Autism Awareness Week runs from 17-24 May.

**The Centre for Studies on Inclusive Education (CSIE)** is holding a conference titled *Developing Inclusive Education*, in London on 19 May and Manchester on 21 May. The conference, which will include lectures and workshops, will look at the development of inclusive education, human rights issues and diversity. From £110. Tel: 0117 328 4007.

## Publications

**The Spinal Injuries Association (SIA)** has published *Active!*, a sports and leisure directory for physically disabled people. It contains profiles and contact details for clubs and organisations covering sports, leisure and the arts in the UK. £3. SIA, tel: 0800 980 0501, or see [www.spinal.co.uk](http://www.spinal.co.uk)

Jessica Kingsley has published a range of titles on disability issues, including *The Views and Experiences of Disabled Children and their Siblings* (£15.95), *Working with People with Learning Disabilities* (£16.95), *Inclusive Research with People with Learning Disabilities* (£18.95) and *Quality of Life and Disability* (£17.95). Tel: 020 7833 2307, or see [www.jkp.com](http://www.jkp.com)

**The Family Planning Association (FPA)** has published a Talking Together series of books for young people with learning disabilities, to provide a resource for parents and schools. Titles include *Talking Together...about Growing Up and Talking Together...about Sex and Relationships* (£15.95). Tel: 01865 719418.

**SpecialneedsIT**, an exhibition of information and communication technology (ICT) for people with special needs, will be held at the Reebok Stadium, Bolton, on 24-25 May. There will be demonstrations of special access devices, communication aids and software. The event will include international companies, and there will be

experts offering advice on the latest products. The show will take place alongside Special Needs North, which will feature books, equipment and learning resources, and is organised by the National Association for Special Educational Needs and the Publishers Association. Free. Tel: 01457 819790, or see [www.specialneedsit.co.uk](http://www.specialneedsit.co.uk)

## Wanted

**The Royal College of Art** is organising Include 2005, its third international conference on inclusive design, due to be held from 5-8 April 2005. They are calling for papers and proposals on the subject of ensuring that products and services address the needs of the widest possible audience. Deadline 1 June. Tel: 020 7590 4242, or see [www.hhrc.rca.uk](http://www.hhrc.rca.uk)

**Core Arts**, a London-based mental health charity, and the Holifield Farm Project for people with learning disabilities in Cornwall will be hosting a performance area for disabled musicians, poets and comedians at Glastonbury 2004 in June. To get involved, contact Jonathan Shears at Core Arts, tel: 0795 868 6721, email: [jshears@corearts.co.uk](mailto:jshears@corearts.co.uk)

*inspires me*  
to do what I want to do





*The Elite XS*

## STERLING

Find out why you'll want to ride a Sterling scooter with a low threshold entrance. The new motorised scooter is designed for comfort, safety and reliability. It's the perfect solution for anyone who wants to get out and about. It's the perfect solution for anyone who wants to get out and about. It's the perfect solution for anyone who wants to get out and about.

Backed by over 20 years of experience, Sterling scooters are the most reliable and supported products in the industry. Call now for information on a Sterling scooter dealer near you quoting reference DN001

01384 44 66 22



**SUNRISE MEDICAL**

www.sunrise-medical.com



# Talking Talkies

Daniel Rhind welcomes a more accessible cinema experience with Audio Description

Have you ever felt the frustration of going to the cinema and not being able to follow the plot due to a visual impairment? Despite the best efforts of a fully-sighted friend describing the action through whispers, it is still often very difficult to visualise what is really happening. Get the plot with Audio Description, the latest cinema technology.

Via a cordless headset, Audio Description provides a commentary of what is taking place on screen where there is no dialogue, without disrupting the action. The user can sit anywhere in the cinema provided that both the film and the auditorium are fitted with the equipment.

This makes a substantial difference to the cinema experience. For example, when I watched *Lord of the Rings: the Two Towers*, it particularly helped when there was a 20 minute battle scene. Normally I would have just sat there wondering what all the noise was about. Through Audio Description I could keep up with who was doing what to whom, enabling me to follow the storyline.

Audio Description allows you to understand who is talking as well as who is present in a particular scene, which is especially useful at the beginning of films, when it is sometimes difficult to work out who is talking if a number



of actors have similar voices. It is also useful for explaining visual comedy. Previously there were always occasions when the audience was laughing and I couldn't understand why, due to the fact that the humour was visually based. Audio Description explains these comedy moments along with little things such as facial expressions, which allows you to follow how the actors are feeling.

This free equipment is currently available in 22 cinemas across the UK. With National Lottery funding given to the Film Council's Cinema Access Programme,

the technology, along with subtitling equipment, will be installed in a further 78 cinemas this year. The list of available films has also been increased, and film distributors have already committed to providing 60 popular films with Audio Description in 2004.

Audio Description is also being incorporated into televisions, DVDs and even museums.

For more information, contact your local cinema or call RNIB Broadcasting on 020 7391 2108. Find out about films, venues and times at [www.yourlocalcinema.com](http://www.yourlocalcinema.com)

## DID YOU KNOW?

DN is available on tape, disk and by e-mail. Contact Talking Newspapers, see contents, page 2.

## MINIHOIST



Wheelchair, Electric Wheelchair and Electric Scooter Lifts

100kg and 150kg models available.

Fitting throughout the UK.

Free home demonstrations.

CALL FREE ON 0800 214 045  
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

AUTOCHAIR

E-mail: [info@autochair.co.uk](mailto:info@autochair.co.uk) Website: [www.autochair.co.uk](http://www.autochair.co.uk)

# Have you heard the news?

More than 200 national newspapers and magazines are now available on audio tape or in electronic format for anyone who has difficulty reading.

All your favourite national titles are available from Talking Newspapers. Recorded in our own studios by our experienced team of sound engineers and readers, these publications are supplied on quality audio tape - many are also available in electronic format for use on a PC. To order your **FREE** catalogue or for further information please call:

# 0870 442 9592

Talking Newspaper Association of the UK is a registered charity, No: 293656

TNAUK  
National Recording Centre, Heathfield  
East Sussex, TN21 8DB

Web site: [www.tnauk.org.uk](http://www.tnauk.org.uk)

Email: [info@tnauk.org.uk](mailto:info@tnauk.org.uk)



## Websites

**Social Information on Disability (SID)** is a new organisation aiming to provide information on useful equipment for disabled people, allowing people to easily access and share information on disability issues. Their first project is an online secondhand shop for disability equipment. See [www.asksid.org.uk](http://www.asksid.org.uk)

**The National Autistic Society (NAS)** has launched a new-look, easily accessible website, with guidance from the RNIB and in accordance with international accessibility standards. See [www.nas.org.uk](http://www.nas.org.uk)

**The Working Equalities Trust** has created a fully accessible interactive disability equality training website, enabling disabled people to complete an online training course. The course takes two or three hours to complete, and is free. See [www.webequality.org.uk](http://www.webequality.org.uk)

## Correction

In the April issue, we mentioned the auditing training course run by the Good Access Guide. It is a five day course rather than a four day course as stated. Contact Melony Medhurst, tel: 0870 241 6129, or email [mel@goodaccessguide.co.uk](mailto:mel@goodaccessguide.co.uk)

## ATTENTION

DN cannot guarantee inclusion in a particular issue. Due to deadlines, please send details at the earliest opportunity.

If you would like your event listed here, please send details to the address on page 2.

## CROSSWORD ANSWERS

### ACROSS:

7. Square 8. Marble 10. Terrier 11. Hanks 12. At Me 13. Offer 17. Tolls 18. Time 22. Anvil 23. Atheist 24. Carbon 25. Graeae

### DOWN:

1. Ashtray 2. Supremo 3. Fruit 4. Cashier 5. Ebony 6. Welsh 9. Trafalgar 14. You Look 15. Similes 16. Beatles 19. March 20. Every 21. Shard

Reader's Digest... Daily Mail... Woman's Weekly... Guardian... Hi-Fi News... Time... Cosmopol



# NAIDEX 2004

Naidex 2004, the national homocare exhibition, returns to the NEC in Birmingham from 11-13 May. As well as showcasing the latest products, the exhibition will provide advice and information to disabled and elderly people, and healthcare professionals. With over 275 exhibitors already committed to attending, it will be the largest show yet.

All types of living aids, from mobility equipment and communication aids to bedroom and kitchen products will be represented. The show will give people the chance to try out the items for themselves and get on-the-spot advice from experts. This is one of the main attractions of the event – research at last year's exhibition revealed that 92 per cent of professional visitors and 81 per cent of public visitors cited a search for new products as their main reason for attending.

The dedicated New Product Zone will showcase all the products entered for the New Product Award, including a range of equipment designed to make life easier for both adults and children.

Among the new products featured is the Swift from Karma Mobility, a new lightweight wheelchair with side panels that can be used as a tray, making activities such as eating and reading a lot easier.

RMT Fitness will be introducing the VitaGlide exercise system designed for people in wheelchairs, providing muscular development to the shoulder area.

Also featuring at the show will be Lavatherm's heat pads. The pads can be moulded around any part of the body, become hot in a matter of seconds, and can be chilled in only 20 minutes – helping to relieve muscular stiffness.

Other contenders for the New Product Award include designs from Chatterbox Software, Dignified Living, Freedom Designs, Independence Technology, Kirton, Mangar International, Quality Enabling Devices and Select Healthcare.

Plan your perfect wedding with Accessible Travel and Leisure, who will be unveiling their latest travel package, Accessible Weddings and

Honeymoons, at the show. Choose from venues around the world, from South Africa to the Caribbean, and have everything arranged for you by a wedding coordinator.

For children, special feature areas at the show will include Kidequip, a paediatric exhibition for children with special needs, where there will be Goalball demonstrations run by British Blind Sport, among other activities. The show will also feature the launch of a new range of clothes designed for children with special needs by Rackety's.com in association with fashion designer Annabel McMahon, which is entered for the New Product Award.

DCS Joncare will be celebrating its 25th anniversary by showing new seating models for children with limited mobility, and Tomcat SNI will also be catering for the needs of children with disabilities in mainstream schools and its power trike, which is custom-built for each individual, making cycling possible for children with very special needs.

There will be many different areas to explore to keep people of all ages entertained, including a Sensory Area and a Relaxation



Zone. There will also be an Inclusive Garden feature, run in association with the national horticultural charity Thrive. Professionals will be on hand to offer guidance on accessible gardening and tips for whatever kind of gardener you are, from beginner to expert.

National and local associations and charities will also be there to provide advice and guidance, including the British Red Cross, RNIB and Leonard Cheshire. Don't forget to visit DN's stand (number 624), where we will

be running a competition to guess the number of sweets in a very large jar.

Opening times: 11-12 May, 10am-5pm, 13 May – 10am-4pm. Admission is free. Book tickets on 0870 429 4428, or pre-register online at [www.naidex.co.uk](http://www.naidex.co.uk)

**Naidex**

## Courses

**The Leicestershire Centre for Integrated Living (LCIL)** offers a range of Second Chance courses designed to help people gain new skills and access into further education. Courses include Information Technology (beginner and intermediate), Art, Leisure, Sport and Work Skills. Open to disabled people aged 18-65. Free. Based in Leicester. Tel: 0116 222 5005, or email [2ndchance@lcil.org.uk](mailto:2ndchance@lcil.org.uk)

**The University of Bristol** is holding Take a New Look: Deaf Graduates into Employment, a course run by the Centre for Access and Communication Studies. Designed for unemployed graduates who are deaf or hard of hearing, the course will look at improving employment opportunities by developing skills and confidence, and will discuss funding, support and the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA). Based in Bristol. Free, with attendees also eligible for free travel and accommodation. Various dates to July 2004. Tel: 0117 954 5717, textphone: 0117 954 5715, or email: [Jane.Alexander@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:Jane.Alexander@bristol.ac.uk)

**disabilitynow**

## June 2004

- **Motoring Supplement**
- **40,000 extra print run**
- **Distributed at Mobility Roadshow Donington & Edinburgh**

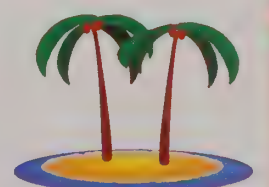
Don't miss out on this ideal opportunity to advertise.

For a quote or to book space call Richard Gresham 020 7619 7336 Fax: 020 7619 7331 Email: [Richard.gresham@scope.org.uk](mailto:Richard.gresham@scope.org.uk)

## Been out and about lately?

DN will be running its annual summer holiday features on new places to visit and sights to see in the July and August issues. If you have been on an interesting day

trip or are planning one, do let us know soon. Print and email addresses on page 2.



## MINIHOIST 30KG

**Manual Wheelchair and Small Scooter Lift**



Also lifts smaller electric wheelchairs and parts of larger electric wheelchairs. Fitting throughout the UK. Free home demonstrations.

**CALL FREE ON 0800 214 045 FOR FURTHER INFORMATION**

**AUTOCHAIR**

E-mail: [info@autochair.co.uk](mailto:info@autochair.co.uk) Website: [www.autochair.co.uk](http://www.autochair.co.uk)



DN LINAGE

Tel: 020 7619 7329, Fax: 020 7619 7331, Minicem: 020 7619 7332, E-mail: patrick.durhammatthews@scope.org.uk

• Personal

**ATTRACTIVE EXOTIC FEMALE**, 27, wheelchair user with F.A., would like to meet a gentleman up to the age of 35 for friendship or possible relationship. Box no: 276

**WARM FRIENDLY FEMALE** approaching 40 with cp, wheelchair user. Genuine nature and gsoh, works full time, seeks ambulant/able bodied male with similar qualities for friendship/relationship (West Yorkshire). Varied interests. Photo appreciated. Box no: 277

• Cars/vans/motors

**CHAIRMAN MERCEDES VITO** 2.2 Diesel, T Reg, White. 50k Miles, Central Locking, Air Conditioning, PAS. 5 Seats plus 1 Wheelchair and up to 3 wheelchair positions. Lower floor, lowering suspension and rear ramp. One owner £9250 ono. Tel Chris Gibson: 01270 882814.

**CHAIRMAN RENAULT KANGOO** Y reg (2001), 4 seats, room for wheelchair, silver. £6,300. Tel: 01924 402302.

**NISSAN PRAIRIE 2.0**, with Brotherwoods conversion incl harnesses back and front with rear ramp, standard BSA support. Recent MOT, taxed, pas, e/windows, sunroof, 51k miles, only one owner from new, fsh. £7,000 ono. Tel: 01748 834221.

**VW T800 SPECIAL** 1.9 Tdi, S reg, 40k miles. 3 plus driver seating, Versa conversion incl room for two wheelchairs. Rear access with Ricon lift. Full MOT and service history, only 2 owners. £7,100 ono. Tel: 01789 292556 (Warwickshire).

**RENAULT TRAFIC 2.1**, Lewis Reed conversion with Ratcliffe tail-lift. 95k miles, fsh, only one owner from new. R reg, carries 3 in front, 2 in rear plus wheelchair. Extra heater under rear seat. Pas, CD player. Sliding side doors with picnic table. MOT expires August and tax July. In very good condition, £3,400 ono. Tel: 01355 241258.

**RENAULT KANGOO RXE** 1.4 petrol 2001, 9k miles lowering floor, full MOT, full service history, only one owner, seats 1 wheelchair passenger plus 3 others including driver £7,750 ono. Tel day: 01621 856811, evening: 01621 856475 (Essex).

**VW CARAVELLE VARIANT** 2.5TDi, V reg, Invatravel conversion, Ricon rear tail lift. Seats 6 plus one wheelchair/4 plus 2 wheelchairs. 46k miles, full electrics, dashboard air con, CD/cassette radio. Mint condition, any inspection, £13,000. Tel: 01902 344365 or mobile: 07793 282891. Email: tonybristow@lineone.net

**VW SHARAN 1.9TDI**, registered late 2001, only 2 owners, 75k miles, still under warranty, fsh, high spec, silver, 115 bhp, 6 speed. Automotive conversion, carries 6 incl wheelchair. £14,500 ono. Tel: 01620 894990.

**CHAIRMAN RENAULT KANGOO** 1.4 RN. Gowrings conversion. Ramp for wheelchair access. 1 rear seat. Y reg (2001), 33,000 miles. Bordeaux Red. Just had full service and first MOT. Taxed to end August. £6,500 ono. Tel: 01622 735420.

**MERCEDES VITO 113** van, 1998 R reg, 32k miles, auto, pas, extra internal lighting. Versa conversion incl ramp and winch. Dark blue, one owner, fsh, recent full MOT. 3 rear seats and room for wheelchair. £6,000 ono. Tel: 0117 9651675 (Bristol).

**CHAIRMAN FIAT FIORINO** 1.4, P reg, 32k miles. Blue with 2 rear seats and wheelchair space, rear access ramp. MOT expires June, fsh, only 2 owners. In immaculate condition, £2,250. Tel: 01892 546188 (Tunbridge Wells).

**NISSAN MICRA REG** 96, electric front windows, tiller steering. Excellent condition. £1,200 ono. Tel: 01189 340239.

**FORD TRANSIT VAN** 2.0 auto, pas, G reg, 86k miles, space for 2 wheelchairs plus 4 seats. Electric lift. MOT Jan 2005. £1,800 Tel: 01424 813823 (Hastings).

**TOYOTA HIACE 2.4** diesel, 01 reg, 4 passenger seats incl driver. Versa conversion with added winch and track anchors. Only 17k miles, excellent condition. £10,995. Tel: 01942 862691 (Wigan).

**VOLKSWAGEN SHARAN S1.9TDI**, registered Sept 2001, only one owner, 23.5k miles, pas. Automotive Group conversion with ramp. Carries 5 plus wheelchair. E/windows, 6 speed gearbox, white. Cost £20,000, £14,900 ono. Tel: 01993 771184 or 07881 820415.

**MERCEDES V230 1998**, S reg. 82000mls. Auto. CoTrim conversion (side door) lifts up to 300kgs. Burgundy, with grey leather int. Air con. Cruise control, £11950 ono. Tel: 01296 696251

• Wheelchairs/scooters

**MANGAR FREESTYLE 2000** elevating wheelchair with charger. Compact, stylish and comfortable. Mangar first service free of charge. In immaculate condition, £1,500 ono. View in Beckenham, Kent. Tel: 01548 844060.

**LIGHTWEIGHT FOLDING WHEELCHAIR**. In excellent condition, £400 ono. View in Beckenham, Kent. Tel: 01548 844060.

**VESTRA ELECTRIC WHEELCHAIR** with charger. £450. Tel: 0121 682 8354 (Erdington, Birmingham).

**QUICKIE F55 WHEELCHAIR**, electric with charger, max range 30 miles on full charge. All offers will be considered. Tel: 01208 850277.

**INVACARE MISTRAL PLUS** electric wheelchair. Folds for car boot transport. Dual controls for user and carer. Cushioned seat, reclining back, headrest, elevating legrests, alloy wheels, rear suspension, battery charger, 4mph, 20km range. Cost new £3750. Unused. Delivery and setup possible. Tel: Dr Fisher 07710 353251 (pm/eves) e-mail: jonathan@fishermed.com. Asking £1595 ono.

**STERLING DIPLOMAT 408ID** deluxe scooter. Hardly used, excellent condition. Blue, 4 wheels, full suspension. 8mph special fan cooled motor. Baskets F/R. High back seat, headrest, sliding seat base. Dealer serviced. Cost new £3750. Delivery possible. £975 ono. Tel: Dr Fisher 07710 353 251 (pm/eves).

**WHEELTECH MERCURY ELECTRIC** scooter M48, top of range luxury 4-wheeler. Brand new, never been used, garaged. Sale due to bereavement. Cost £3,800, £1,900 for quick sale. Full warranty honoured. Tel: 020 8693 0587.

**INVACARE STORM XR**. Vgc, full spec. Recaro seat, lights, indicators, joystick left or right. Kerb climber, new batteries. Cost £5950. Offers. Tel: 01202 874525 or 01590 642933

**INFINITY GLIDE SCOOTER** model 2002 cost £1,975, asking £1,000 ono. Tel: 01202 706480.

**BREEZY P100 ELECTRIC** wheelchair. As new. Dual controls; kerb climber; complete with battery charger. Folds for transportation. £850 ono. Tel: 01869 331352.

• Household/family

**INVACARE CEILING HOIST** with track. Open to any offers. Tel: 01208 850277.

**BATHMASTER EXTRA BATHLIFT**, new cost £475, price £250. Tel: 01580 762355.

**DELTA TILT-IN-SPACE** chair by Kirton with gas action adjustment. Cost over £1,000, used only for two weeks, will accept £600 to go to a charity; so no offers please. Tel: 01929 462805 (South Dorset)

**ENDRES ELECTRIC BATHLIFT**, reclining padded seat. Hardly used with operating instructions. 2 years old, immaculate condition. £300 ono. Tel: 01895 820744 (Middlesex).

**MINIVATOR STAIRLIFT, LEFT** hand, 13 steps straight run. Buyer collects, one year old. Any reasonable offers considered. Tel: 01582 534056 (Luton) or mobile: 07939 655515.

• Swimming pool hoists

**ELECTRIC SWIMMING POOL** hoist, manufactured by Oxford. Dismantled and ready for transport. In full working order, very little use. With full operating instructions. Cost £12,000, any reasonable offer will be considered. Tel: 01208 850277.

• Wanted

**PHYSIOTHERAPY ASSISTANT REQUIRED**. Energetic individual required to assist young disabled professional with physiotherapy programme. The position is ideal for an individual in the Clapham SW4 area looking for local part-time work. Prior knowledge and experience are not essential but always a bonus. The successful candidate will be required for a total of 2hrs 20mins per week. Rates of pay are £8 ph. If interested call Diego on 07930 490973 or email diego004@yahoo.com

• Help

**MIKE, 50, QUAD**, cp, gsoh, requires 2 helpers, 90 hours a month. Interests inc travel model vehicles motoring and much more. Duties include washing, shaving, bathing, cleaning etc. Ideal candidate 30 to 60, smart, articulate, organised who will demonstrate reliability, commitment, honesty & confidentiality. Further info on request. Box no 272 or email: michaeljohn3@btopenworld.com

PERSONAL ADS

For personal ads, submit about 25 words and send a cheque or postal order for £20 payable to Disability Now with your ad. This is to help cover our costs.

HOW TO REPLY

To reply to a personal ad indicate the Box Number and mark the envelope Private and Confidential. If you do not it will be opened. Send it to DN, address on page 2.

SEND US YOUR SMALLS...

...and make a big impression. Small ads in DN reach over 60,000 people for just £8 a line. All small ads must be paid for in advance. If you want to advertise, please use the form provided. Send it with a cheque for the total to Disability Now, 6 Market Road, London N7 9PW.

Classified lineage advertisements

Linage styles

EXAMPLE OF standard lineage advert. Cost: £8 per line. Tick box below.

EXAMPLE OF semi-display lineage advert. Cost: £8 per line plus £10. Tick box below.

EXAMPLE OF box lineage advert. Cost: £8 per line plus £20. Tick box below.

Choose an advert style from far right. Send this coupon with your name, address, daytime telephone number and a cheque for the total made payable to Disability Now to: 6 Market Road, London N7 9PW.

DN reserves the right to edit advertisements if necessary. Completion of this form does not guarantee inclusion in a particular issue. Sorry no refunds. DN is a non-profit making newspaper.

Continue on a separate sheet if necessary

☐ Standard lineage advert

☐ Semi-display lineage advert

☐ Box lineage advert



• For sale

**WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE VEHICLES FOR SALE**

2002 02 VW Caddy TDi, Invatravel, 11,000 miles	£11,250
2001 51 Multipla SX JTD Brotherwood, 1 owner, 29,000 miles	£17,995
2001 51 Peugeot Expert Chairman, 6 seats, 43,000 miles	£12,995
2001 Y Sharan TD, Auto by Automotive gp. 17,000 miles	£16,250
2001 X Zaphira Chairman, 1.8 comfort, 1 owner	£15,995
2000 W Ford Courier, Auto by Universal, 11,000 miles	£9,250
2000 W Mercedes V220 CDi Ambiente, side lift	£19,995
2000 X Brotherwood Sharan TDi, Manual, 30,000 miles	£19,250
2000 V Sharan Automotive TDi, 2 owners, 11,000 miles, A/C	£13,495
1999 V Peugeot Expert TD Hill Grau, 5+ chair A/C	£12,500
1999 V Escort Chairman diesel, 44,000 miles, PAS, 1 owner	£8,750
1999 T Suzuki Wagon R, Auto, 1 owner, 30,000 miles	£7,495
1998 R Sharan Automotive TDi, Auto, 1 owner	£11,500
1997 P Peugeot Expert Chairman, 40,000 miles, 1 owner, A/C	£8,250
1996 P Serena SLX D Brotherwood, 2 owners, 43,000 miles	£8,495
1995 M Serena 1.6 LX Brotherwood, PAS, 47,000 miles	£6,495
VW Transporters & Caravelles	Choice of 14
Mercedes Vito's	Choice of 4
Kangoo & Berlingo models	Choice of 6
Traffic & Vanette Cargo models	Choice of 9

A selection of 80 WAVs from £2,750 fully serviced with warranty. Demo and delivery anywhere in UK mainland free. Part exchange and vehicles sought for purchase.

**CLARKE MOBILITY** **01634 243596**  
**SNODLAND, KENT** **www.gfclarke.com**

**Quality Used Adapted Vehicles**

*The biggest and best choice in the UK*

**Wheelchair Accessible & Wheelchair Drivers**

W Renault Kangoo Auto's accessible	£10,995
V Toyota Hi-Aces. Ramps + 4 seats from	£7,995
02 Suzuki Wagon Auto Low floor & ramp	£9,995
V Renault Kangoo low floors from	£7,995
03 Grand Voyager LTD. Low floor side entry	£24,995
V Renault Espace 2.2 Dti Lowered floor	£14,995
03 Citroen Berlingo 1.6 Low floors	£12,995
X VW Caravelle diesels. Ramps/winches	£12,495
51 Citroen Dispatch diesel low floor	£11,995
Y VW fully automated wheelchair driver	£19,995
W Renault Traffic diesel . . very low mileage	£9,995
03 Renault Kango's with lowered floors	£11,995

**Over 50 Mobility vehicles in stock from £2,995**

**Low or even NO DEPOSIT Mobility Finance Plans**

**0121 502 2252** **www.jubileeauto.co.uk**

Jubilee Automotive Group Ltd, Woden Rd. South, Wednesbury, West Midlands, WS10 0NQ.

**mission**



**Specialists in Trikes for children and adults, from £180-£380**  
Tel: 01622 815615  
info@missioncycles.co.uk  
[www.missioncycles.co.uk](http://www.missioncycles.co.uk)

**Accessible Vehicle Register**

We specialise in locating used vehicles to suit the specific needs of our customers. If you are looking for an accessible vehicle or have one to dispose of, contact Adam Price. We also supply and install all forms of access equipment.

**01202 814112**  
adamprice.avr@tiscali.co.uk

**COTSWOLD COTS**  
Build Cots and Beds for Adults and Children with Special Needs

We Design And Build Any Cot or Bed You Need.

**New Products** Extra Strong Playpens. Extra Large Stairgates. Fitted Padded Play Areas.

High Quality Fair prices  
Information Phone 01993 842885

**MAYDAY PRODUCTS**  
Help protect your wheelchair on board planes, boats, trains and cars.  
**WHEELCHAIR TRAVEL BAG** © 2003.  
[www.maydayproducts.com](http://www.maydayproducts.com)  
email: maydayuk@oxfree.com  
Tel: 01491 680103.

**Powerchairs Mobility Consultants**  
New and Nearly New, Electric Wheelchairs, 3 and 4 Wheel Scooters.  
All models wanted and for sale.  
**Ring Free anytime**  
**0800 074 6834**  
All major credit cards accepted

**DISCLAIMER - DN** is not responsible for claims made in the adverts it prints. Readers are advised to check claims with advertisers before relying on them.

• Recruitment (on page 43 to 46)

*Making a difference....*

- Have you ever thought about working in a library?
- Or providing care to the elderly or people with disabilities?
- Are you interested in engineering and planning?
- Or working with schools or adult education?
- Would administration and finance work be up your street?

We provide a wide range of services to our community involving a whole host of challenging and satisfying jobs. We are looking for people who really care about customer service and are committed to working for a better Bromley.

If you think that you fit the bill and would like to find out more about the jobs we offer then visit our web site regularly at [www.bromley.gov.uk/jobs](http://www.bromley.gov.uk/jobs)

**Bromley**  
THE LONDON BOROUGH

Committed to achieving equal opportunities in employment and service delivery

**Ealing**  
Centre for Independent Living

**Advocacy Project Worker**  
(funded by Comic Relief)

**Contract: 3 years • Hours: 21 per week**

**Salary: £24,168 pro-rata all inclusive.**

To facilitate disabled people with high support needs to make a difference in their own lives on a personal and political level. You will need a good knowledge of independent living issues and experience of advocacy and influencing policy makers. In year three you will organise a conference on the theme of resisting institutionalisation.

ECIL represents all disabled people in Ealing. We are an equal opportunities employer and welcome applications from disabled people

**Closing date: 12th May 2004**

**Interviews: 17th May 2004**

For an application pack please contact Ealing Centre for Independent Living, 1 Bayham Road, West Ealing W13 0TQ.  
Voice: 020 8840 3682 Text: 020 8840 2579  
Fax: 020 8840 6598

• Training day

**DYSLEXIA AWARENESS ONE DAY TRAINING**

A one day course designed to create initial awareness in this specialised subject area. A flexible delivery to meet individual or corporate needs.

For further information contact the  
A.D.O. on **0207 207 3911**  
SPT. Ltd on **01709 374561**  
or email [derekkenedy@sptltd.co.uk](mailto:derekkenedy@sptltd.co.uk)  
or [dyslexia.hq@dial.pipex.com](mailto:dyslexia.hq@dial.pipex.com)

**Deadline - DN Extra** May 2004 published 10 May.  
**Classified deadlines: Booking & Copy: 30 April.**  
**Disability Now** June 2004 published 29 May  
**classified deadlines: Booking: 14 May. Copy: 18 May.**

• Holidays (cont'd p45)

**PENROSE BURDEN NORTH CORNWALL**  
"Holiday Care Award Winners"

Holiday Cottages designed for wheelchair users and their families. Rural setting with superb views. Dogs welcome. Wood burning stoves and daily meal service.

Please ring or write for colour brochure.  
R&N Hall, Penrose Burden,  
St Breward, Bodmin, Cornwall  
PL30 4LZ. Telephone Bodmin  
(01208) 850277 or 850617

**HARTGROVE FARM, DORSET**

Award winning holiday cottages on working farm. A really lovely holiday for disabled guests and their families. Glorious countryside and views. Logfires, C.H. mobile hoist and other equipment. Care homes very welcome.

**Tel: 01747 811908**  
[www.hartgrovefarm.co.uk](http://www.hartgrovefarm.co.uk)

**Caribbean apartments**  
and accessible van for disabled and able-bodied travellers

[stvincenttravel@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:stvincenttravel@yahoo.co.uk) 01865 724542  
[www.geocities.com/stvincenttravel](http://www.geocities.com/stvincenttravel)

**Great self-catering in South West Wales**  
**Sŵn-y-Gwynt Cottage**  
Sleeps 4, fabulous views, flawless luxury. TV, linen, washing machine, power all included.  
**Tel: 01267 237261**  
E-mail: [antony.griew@virgin.net](mailto:antony.griew@virgin.net)  
Accessibility Grade 1

★★★★★

**Near Salisbury** - newly converted stable block self-catering units. Ground floor 1 double/twin bedroom en-suite wheel-in shower. Upstairs 1 double, 1 single, shower room. Open plan kitchen & living room. Patio & shared garden. ETB category 2, 4-star highly commended. Non-smoking. Prices from £195 pw. Available all year. Tel: 01722 349002, e-mail: [mail@old-stables.co.uk](mailto:mail@old-stables.co.uk), [www.old-stables.co.uk](http://www.old-stables.co.uk)

**CAREWELL HOLIDAYS**  
Looking for a happy suitable holiday?

We specialize in finding suitable accommodation for disabled persons of all abilities, age groups, and interests. We can also arrange assistance from health care professionals if required. For information on booking a holiday in accessible self-catering cottages, hotels, or farm house B&Bs please ring and speak to a holiday adviser. Tel: 01437 563565. email: [info@carewellholidays.co.uk](mailto:info@carewellholidays.co.uk)  
[www.carewellholidays.co.uk](http://www.carewellholidays.co.uk)  
To find out about listing your accommodation please contact us.

**Brittany Cottage** to let.  
Adapted for wheelchair use. Good access to beaches. Sleeps up to 6.  
Details **C. Hodgson.**  
**Tel (01924) 499220.**

**PAIGNTON DEVON**  
WHEEL CHAIR FRIENDLY 6 BERTH CARAVAN  
PURPOSE DESIGN FOR DISABLED GUESTS  
INCLUDES USE OF INDOOR HEATED POOL  
CLUB & BAR FACILITIES.  
CALL DEVON ASBAH 01803 522256.

**WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE HOLIDAY COTTAGES IN RURAL FRANCE**

Charming cottage in Dordogne region available for rent. Reasonable rates. If you are looking for peace and quiet, warm weather, good food and wine, this is the place for you. Call or fax Ed Passant on 01233 731 097 or e-mail: [ed.passant@mail.com](mailto:ed.passant@mail.com) web: [www.accessholidays.com](http://www.accessholidays.com)

**COSTA DEL SOL & MALLORCA**

**Mobility Equipment Hire**  
Wheelchairs, Scooters & More

**0845 644 2892** **MobilityAbroad**  
[www.mobilityabroad.co.uk](http://www.mobilityabroad.co.uk)

**CUMBRIA** Idyllic & peaceful beauty spot. The Tranquil Otter Lakeshore Lodges 5 cosy lodges (1 accessible), 2 luxury lodges (both accessible) with accessible sauna, whirlpool bath, log burner etc. Lakeside paths, lake (via wheely boat) and shop all accessible. Resident Otters. Own rowing boat. 01228 576661. [www.the-tranquil-otter.co.uk](http://www.the-tranquil-otter.co.uk)

**The Algarve, Portugal**

Small hotel owned and run by English family. Home from home. Happy and friendly. Home cooked food. Diets catered for. All bedrooms en-suite. Our own swimming pool and grass bowling green. Golfing bookings can be made. We are fully equipped for wheelchair users, their families and friends. Met at Faro airport. For brochures and flights with A.T.O.L. agents, tel: 00 351 289 396589, fax: 00 351 289 394924.

**CYPRUS - Paphos & Polis**  
Villas/cottages, some "disabled friendly" for 2-10 persons. Own pools. Phone Irene: 020 8440 6219.  
email: [irenehare@aol.com](mailto:irenehare@aol.com)  
[www.buyrentcypusvillas.com](http://www.buyrentcypusvillas.com)



# Removing barriers, creating opportunities

## EQUALITY & DIVERSITY COMMITTEE

The Learning and Skills Council has a vision that, by 2010, young people and adults in England will have knowledge and productive skills to match the best in the world.

Under the Learning and Skills Act 2000 the LSC is responsible for promoting equality of opportunity in the areas of race, gender and disability. It also takes account of other relevant legislation, for example, the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000, the Disability Discrimination Act and the recent European Regulations.

Whilst legislation is important, the Learning and Skills Council must move beyond compliance and work in a way that puts learners first if it is to truly promote equality of opportunity. The National Council have agreed to form an Equality and Diversity Committee that will advise and monitor progress in promoting equality and diversity. The Committee of 12 members, which will be chaired by a member of the National Council, will meet approximately six times a year commencing in September 2004. Whilst these are unpaid roles, expenses are available for travel, subsistence and childcare. Appointments are generally made for two to four years.

You will be committed to promoting equality and diversity, with expert knowledge and experience in at least one of the following areas: age, race, sexual orientation, disability, gender and religion or belief. In addition, you will have a background in one of the following areas: human rights, human resources, voluntary and community sector, business, employment, training or post-16 education. You will have experience of working at a national level, matched with skills in leadership and management of change. You will be an excellent communicator and committed to high quality teaching and learning.

**Change lives through learning.** For an application pack or further information please contact the Recruitment Team on 0845 330 9903 (lines open between 9am and 5pm) or email: [lscjobs@barkers.co.uk](mailto:lscjobs@barkers.co.uk) quoting reference number NOCE 781N. If you require the application pack in other formats or languages, please make the Recruitment Team aware when you call.

**The closing date for application forms is 17 May 2004.** Interviews are planned to take place during week commencing 21 and 28 June and induction training week commencing 6 September. The first meeting of the Committee will take place in late September 2004.

[www.lsc.gov.uk](http://www.lsc.gov.uk)



- Responsibility for over 6 million learners
- The largest ever investment in post-16 education
- A budget of some £9 billion
- A world-class workforce by 2010
- Tackling the skills shortage



Learning+Skills Council

LEARNING AND SKILLS = OPPORTUNITIES

## Northamptonshire Take Pride In Caring

Have you considered social work as a career?



- ★ Are you looking for a challenge? A chance to work with people and quality at the same time
- ★ Why not "EARN AND LEARN" with Northamptonshire County Council as a Social Work Trainee?
- ★ Starting salary from £16,944, with a minimum £18,000 for those with 2.1 degrees (Pay Award Pending)
- ★ Opportunities in Children's Services, Care Management and Mental Health

- ★ Excellent prospects for further training and career progression
- ★ For an informal discussion please phone Elaine O'Callaghan on 01933 220740. For an application form email [schjobs@northamptonshire.gov.uk](mailto:schjobs@northamptonshire.gov.uk) or phone 01604 237404, or apply on line at [www.northamptonshire.gov.uk](http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk)
- ★ Completed applications must be returned by 7th May 2004

WORKING TOWARDS  
EQUALITY



Northamptonshire  
County Council



Thrive is the national horticultural charity that exists to enable disadvantaged, disabled and older people to participate fully in the social and economic life of the community. We currently have a vacancy for:

## Horticultural Therapist

Thrive's Trunkwell Garden Project offers a variety of training, employment and therapy services both on and off our four-acre site. Increasingly, the focus is on enabling people to obtain prevocational and vocational qualifications.

Based in Trunkwell Park, Beech Hill, near Reading, the successful candidate will have a horticultural qualification, experience as a horticultural therapist and a full driving licence, together with NVQ A1 & A2 (D32/33) Assessor qualifications, a certificate or diploma in Horticultural Therapy and NVQ 2 in Care.

Salary range £17,202 to £18,413 (under review) plus contributory pension scheme and other benefits. This is a fixed term contract until 31st December 2006.

Please contact Delva Neale for an application form at Thrive, The Geoffrey Udall Centre, Beech Hill, Reading, RG7 2AT, (24 hour answer phone 0118 988 5688). Closing date is Monday 17th May 2004.

Alternative formats are available on request.

Applications are welcome from all sections of the community regardless of sex, religion, ethnic origin, sexuality or disability. We would particularly welcome applications from ethnic minority groups and people with disabilities.

[www.hertsdirect.org/jobs](http://www.hertsdirect.org/jobs)

Based at Welwyn Garden City Library  
Equalities Development Librarian

£25,203 - £27,117 pa incl. • This post £12,601 - £13,558 pa incl. for 18½ hours job share • Relocation package available.

We are seeking an Equalities Development Librarian to plan, lead and develop Hertfordshire library services in the context of Framework for the Future. You should be a highly motivated individual with excellent communication skills and the ability to work on your own initiative and to meet tight deadlines. The post will involve leading and participating in a variety of cross-service projects, and liaising with colleagues in other HCC Departments, partner organisations and library authorities in the East of England. You will also support staff in the development and delivery of front-line services. You should be a Chartered Librarian with a proven track record of initiating, planning and co-ordinating effective library service delivery.

For an informal discussion please contact Sue Valentine on 01707 281593.

Apply now online at: [www.hertsdirect.org/jobs](http://www.hertsdirect.org/jobs) or telephone for an application pack on 0845 6014834 anytime quoting Ref: US5133.

Closing date: 07.05.04.  
Interview date: w/c 24.05.04.

We are an equal opportunities employer



## • Courses

Centre for Disability Studies School of Sociology  
and Social Policy University of Leeds

## Diploma/MA in Disability Studies



This unique and hugely popular programme of study gives students the opportunity to work for either a Post Graduate Diploma in Disability Studies or the Degree of Master of Arts (MA) in Disability Studies. The Scheme covers both the theoretical and practical issues relevant to disablement and the disability experience. It is designed for people working in or planning a career in the general area of disability related services.

Candidates will normally have a first degree or equivalent professional qualification, **but relevant experience will be taken into account where appropriate.** This course is taught in an accessible location and the University welcomes disabled students.

THIS POST GRADUATE DIPLOMA/MA IN DISABILITY STUDIES PROGRAMME IS ALSO AVAILABLE AS AN OPEN DISTANCE LEARNING PACKAGE.

For further details please contact **MARIE ROSS** or **DEBBIE WESTMORELAND** in the Department of Sociology and Social Policy at the University of Leeds, LST 9JT.

**Tel: and Minicom (0113) 2334407 or (0113) 2334408**



• Recruitment (on page 43 to 46)



MANCHESTER  
CITY COUNCIL

Chief Executive's Department  
Forward Planning & Regeneration Team  
Access Officer

SO 1/2 £21,282 to £24,726 Ref: 11/6006  
36 hours per week

We are looking for an Access Officer to take a leading role in improving Manchester's environment for disabled people. The successful candidate will be responsible for the promotion and development of the Council's Access 2000 Strategy, which is based on a vision to create the most accessible city in Europe. The job will involve working in partnership with disabled people's organisations, providing advice on a wide range of development proposals, and administering the Council's grant schemes to improve access for disabled people. The post holder will also advise and support Members and Officers throughout the Council on a wide range of access issues related to policy formulation and major regeneration projects. The successful candidate must possess a knowledge of the key issues of concern to disabled people, and their practical consequences in relation to access. It is also essential to demonstrate the ability to understand the workings of disabled people's organisations in the voluntary sector, and to possess good skills in written and numeracy work, data processing and financial management. For an informal discussion please contact David Brettell, Forward Planning and Regeneration Team Leader, on 0161 234 4602

Application forms and further details available from: Personnel Services Team, Corporate Services Department, Room 4042, Town Hall Extension, Manchester M60 2LA. Answerphone: 0161 234 3077. Textphone calls only: 0161 234 3377.

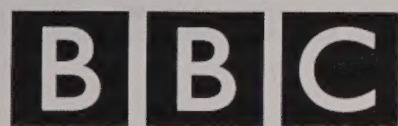
E-mail: [recruitment.corporateservices@notes.manchester.gov.uk](mailto:recruitment.corporateservices@notes.manchester.gov.uk)  
Closing date: 7 June 2004.

To view and apply for all our current vacancies visit:  
[www.manchester.gov.uk](http://www.manchester.gov.uk)

We welcome applications from people wishing to job share. All disabled applicants who meet the short-listing criteria are guaranteed an interview.

Manchester City Council is an Equal Opportunity Employer and we positively welcome applications from women and men, regardless of their racial, ethnic or national origin, religion or belief, disability, age up to 65, sexuality or responsibilities for dependants.

WORKING FOR MANCHESTER



## News Sponsorship Scheme

Who says it's impossible to get into broadcast journalism?

London, Glasgow, Belfast and Cardiff

### The BBC News Sponsorship Scheme...

...is a way of helping you build a promising career in journalism with BBC News, at the same time allowing us to identify fresh new talent from a diverse range of backgrounds.

### The best journalism training and a month's paid work experience...

...with the world's largest news organisation is only part of the story. As well as helping to cover fees and living expenses incurred in any one of the post graduate courses accredited by the Broadcast Journalism Training Council, we'll provide you with your own mentor at the BBC.

### Have you got what it takes to be the best?

...you'll need to be a budding journalist with a passion for following current affairs and news stories as they happen. As well as being an excellent writer with lots of ideas, you must be highly analytical in your approach. In fact, your ability to get under the skin of a story will be just as important as your ability to write about it. You'll also be a good communicator, with an enquiring mind and plenty of determination.

Ref. 72445 Applications to be received by 7 May  
Assessments and interviews will take place 5 - 9 July.

To apply, you'll need to visit [www.bbc.co.uk/jobs/nss](http://www.bbc.co.uk/jobs/nss) where you can find out more. There's lots of useful information, including the views of some of our former students, so you'll be able to get a really good idea of what it's like to join the scheme.



## Richmond Advice and Information on Disability (Richmond AID)

Post: Director

Salary: £35,157 NJC Sc. Pt. 46 P.O.6

Location: Teddington, Middlesex

Richmond AID is a charity working to empower disabled people.

At present our primary service is to deliver advice and information on general aspects of disability in order to enable disabled people to live independently and exercise choice and control over their daily lives.

We are now offering an exciting opportunity to the right candidate to take the charity in a new direction. A full-time Director is required to develop our capacity to become the Key Strategic Organisation for Physical Disability in the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames. Applicants must demonstrate:

- Previous experience of working with or in the voluntary sector.
- The ability to manage an organisation undergoing radical change.
- Broad management skills in the continuous improvement of services.
- Experience of building up partnerships in both the public and voluntary sectors.
- A proven track record of successful fundraising.
- At least 3 years in senior management in a relevant field.
- A good understanding of disability issues together with recent legislation.
- Excellent communication and people skills.

Richmond Aid is an equal opportunities employer. We welcome applications from all suitably qualified people, especially those with personal knowledge or experience of disability.

Closing date for applications: May 7th 2004. Interview dates: June 3rd and 4th 2004.

For further details and application form, please e-mail:  
[H.Ablitt@richmond.gov.uk](mailto:H.Ablitt@richmond.gov.uk)

Phone 020 8831 6080 or write to: The Chair of Trustees,  
Richmond AID, The D.A.A.C., 4 Waldegrave Road, Teddington,  
Middlesex, TW11 8HT.

Company No: 3612476, Charity Registration No: 1074788

• Services



### PHYSIOTHERAPY

BIRKDALE PAEDIATRIC & ADULT NEURO CLINIC

Advice and treatment for babies and children.

Conditions treated are movement and learning difficulties, posture and balance, walking and balance, coordination and hand function.

Cerebral palsy, and children with neurological conditions.  
Farshideh Bondarenko DIP (PHYSIO) MCSP SRP

website: [www.neuro-physio.co.uk](http://www.neuro-physio.co.uk) Tel: 020 8998 9403.

### ORLANDO, FLORIDA

Disabled travellers, don't miss this spacious luxury adapted bungalow.

Overlooking Golf Course. 3 bedrooms/2 bathrooms (Mangar bathlift).

Cable TV. 2 Telephones. FREE Country Club Membership.

10 minutes airport. 20 minutes Disney World.

For availability/booking contact paraplegic owner:- Sue Fisher

Tel/Fax: 0161 792 3029. Email: [rita.sue.fisher@ntlworld.com](mailto:rita.sue.fisher@ntlworld.com)

[www.http://homepage.ntlworld.com/susan.fisher33/](http://www.http://homepage.ntlworld.com/susan.fisher33/)

• Holidays

### BRYN MEIRION LODGE

Amlwch Road, Benllech, Anglesey, North Wales, LL74 8SR. Tel: 01248 853118  
Hotel adapted for wheelchair users. Ensuite specialised rooms with ceiling hoists and electric beds. Also available 1 self-catering unit. Book now to avoid disappointment.  
[www.brynmeirionlodge.co.uk](http://www.brynmeirionlodge.co.uk)

### Cornwall - Accessible Country Lodges

Purpose-built for disabled guests. Sleeps six people. Minutes from beaches and Eden Project. Includes use of communal indoor swimming pool and bar. Call Winged Fellowship Trust: 0845 345 1971.  
[www.wft.org.uk](http://www.wft.org.uk) Registered Charity No. 295072

### Cory Farm Cottage Holidays

Family run working farm. Situated on the beautiful wild North Cornish Coast. We are converting traditional farm buildings into Quality Accessible holiday accommodation. Available from July 2004

Ideally situated for Coast Path & Beaches  
• Stunning Sea Views  
• Peaceful Rural Retreat  
• Children's Play Barn

For more information: Tel: 01288 331758  
website: [www.coryfarmcottages.co.uk](http://www.coryfarmcottages.co.uk)  
Cory Farm Cottages, Morwenstow, Bude, Cornwall

### PRIMROSE VALLEY

Luxury 6 berth wheelchair friendly holiday caravan to let. Situated between Filey and Scarborough in a caravan park on the East Coast of North Yorkshire at a Haven Park. Ring Linda on 01944 768498.

### The Lantern Hotel

The Lantern Hotel - specialist, friendly and well equipped hotel for disabled people. Five minutes walk from the beach and shopping centre.

Trips out in accessible transport, scooter and power chair hire.

Competitive rates.

Please contact duty manager on:-

Tel: 0845 4500 227

Fax: 0845 4500 228

Web site: [www.lanternhotel.co.uk](http://www.lanternhotel.co.uk)

### ACCESSIBLE CARAVANS IN CORNWALL

5/6 berth, prices start from £165 a week. Children/dogs welcome.

Accessible facilities on site, beach and inland locations.

01872 273518

[cda@care4free.net](mailto:cda@care4free.net)

[www.cda.care4free.net](http://www.cda.care4free.net)

### LAKE DISTRICT B&B

Comfortable suite of rooms.

Rural setting. E.M. & S.B.

Tel: 015395 52314

[www.bedinthelakes.co.uk](http://www.bedinthelakes.co.uk)



### 10 MINUTES FROM DISNEYLAND

Florida villa owned by paraplegic. Sleeps up to 12, fully accessible and large. King size bed with ensuite bathroom, wc and wheel-in shower. Large pool with water operated seat for a disabled person. A holiday you can take with confidence. Contact John Gillett on: 01805 601147.

### Safaris to Kenya

Specialist Safaris for people with disabilities. Customised to your needs. Lift equipped vehicles. Great wildlife viewing.

[www.greenleopard.com](http://www.greenleopard.com)

[safaris@greenleopard.com](mailto:safaris@greenleopard.com)

00 254 20577304 (Kenya)

### Norfolk, Nar Valley Holiday Cottages

3 self-catering, all wheelchair accessible, 1 with wheel-in shower room, 2 with airbaths. Mostly en-suite. On working farm - peaceful location, central for beaches and tourist attractions. Indoor heated swimming pool. Also B&B.

More details and prices, contact: Rosemary on 01760 338797.



**• Recruitment (on page 43 to 46)**

Streets Alive is a theatre company for young people between 16 and 25 who are homeless or at risk. We are looking for a dynamic and experienced Outreach Worker to help devise and lead our workshop programme in hostels and day centres. The post is funded by the Homelessness Directorate.

**Key responsibilities will include:**

- Motivating young people at risk through an exciting programme of performance-related workshops aimed at developing participant's life skills
- Planning, delivering and evaluating the outreach project
- Delivering accreditation for the London Open College Network and developing through-care and support strategies for the young people

**Salary: £23,000**

For further information and an application pack, please send an email to: [info@streetsalive.org.uk](mailto:info@streetsalive.org.uk) or an A4 S.A.E. (41p) to Streets Alive Theatre Company, 14 Baylis Road, London SE1 7AA.

Deadline for applications is 14th May 2004.

Interviews will be held w/b 24th May.

Streets Alive is committed to equality of opportunity

Registered Charity: 1082179



OFFICE OF THE  
DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

**• Debate**

## State of London Debate

29 April 2004

This is your chance to ask questions and have your say about policing, safety, transport and economic development in London.

7.30pm to 9pm Institute of Education, University of London,  
20 Bedford Way, London WC1H 0AL

Entry is free but you need to book in advance

**For Tickets:**

**Online** [www.london.gov.uk/mayor/state-of-london](http://www.london.gov.uk/mayor/state-of-london)

**Email** [stateoflondon@london.gov.uk](mailto:stateoflondon@london.gov.uk)

**Telephone** 020 7983 4302

**Minicom** 020 7983 4458

Please state where you saw this advert

**Speakers**

Ken Livingstone Mayor of London

Toby Harris Chair

Metropolitan Police Authority

Sir Ian Blair Deputy Commissioner

Metropolitan Police Service

Valerie Shawcross Chair

London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority

Ken Knight Commissioner

London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority

Manny Lewis Acting Chief Executive

London Development Agency

Peter Hendy MD Surface Transport

Transport for London

Chair Sheena MacDonald

Journalist and Broadcaster

All details correct at time of going to print

GREATERLONDONAUTHORITY



## Access Auditors Vacancies across the UK

AIMS, a part of Alfred McAlpine plc, is one of the UK's leading providers of business to business specialist consultancy and training services to a blue chip client base.

AIMS has exciting growth plans. To facilitate these plans for growth, we need to recruit expert, professional and customer focused Access Auditors to join the organisation across the UK, to help deliver the contracts we are winning. Part of a distributed team, you will be self-sufficient and able to work on you own initiative, often working alone on client-site or from home.

Candidates must have 2+ years of experience of identifying and assessing disability related access issues and be fully conversant with DDA, Part M & BS8300 2001. Must be a strong team player with the ability to work toward the facilitation of relationships and progress.

AIMS group offer a competitive remuneration package, including company car, pension, bonus scheme and other benefits.

AIMS is an equal opportunities employer. To apply for this post or for more information, please contact Mrs Jodie Peach ([jodie.peach@aims-group.co.uk](mailto:jodie.peach@aims-group.co.uk)) or write to AIMS, The Dovecote, Pury Hill Business Park, Alderton Road, Towcester, Northants. NN12 7LS.

An Alfred McAlpine Company [www.aims-group.co.uk](http://www.aims-group.co.uk)

## CONDITIONS

Disability Now maintains the right to amend or withdraw lineage adverts without prior notice. All adverts must comply with the British Code of Advertising Practice.

Telephone numbers and addresses will not be placed in personal adverts, for confidentiality. Instead, Box numbers will be provided. Likewise, telephone numbers and addresses will not be given out over the telephone if requested.

Box Numbers can be requested for non-personal adverts. However, it may limit the response to it. If you want to advertise documents, goods or services contact Patrick Durham-Matthews (tel: 020 7619 7320), fax: 020 7619 7331.

Lineage adverts can only be used by private individuals. All commercial enquiries must be addressed to Richard Gresham (see contact details above).

DN cannot accept responsibility for loss or damage of adverts or letters during forwarding. It is the responsibility of the advertiser to check the content of their advert, and to ensure any abbreviations cannot be misunderstood.



## A FLORAL FEAST

**W**in tickets to the Hampton Court Palace Flower Show and look forward to a memorable day out, full of gardening inspiration. Begin by admiring the dozens of award-winning show gardens, small gardens and this show's speciality, the water gardens, against the majestic backdrop of Hampton Court Palace.

Then visit the six floral marquees which will be bursting at the seams with horticultural exhibits from the country's top nurseries. Everything will be for sale, making this one of the largest specialist plant centres in the world.

DN has two pairs of full day tickets worth £44 each for Saturday 10 July to give away. Just tick Flower Show in the entry form for your chance to win.

If you're not one of the lucky winners, you can still buy tickets by calling 0870 906 3791 or visit [www.rhs.org.uk](http://www.rhs.org.uk)

Show dates: 6-11 July 2004 (6-7 RHS members only) Open: 10am-7.30pm (closes 5.30 on Sunday 11)



MICHAEL CRABTREE

IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE

**Hampton Court Palace Flower Show**



## POP UP A GREENHOUSE

**S**unshine Garden Products Pop-up Mini Greenhouse measures 1m x 1m x 1m and pops up from a compact, flat and easily stored unit. It is the perfect solution for gardeners who want to make the most of a small space without the need for a permanent structure. Ideal for raising seedlings, cuttings, grow bags, tubs and baskets, it can be moved around your garden very easily. Each greenhouse has a wide, roll-down door allowing good access for watering, tending plants, harvesting and ventilation. The Pop-Up Mini Greenhouse comes with pegs to secure it to the ground and its own storage bag.

DN has 10 to give away, worth £17.99 each, so, for your chance to win, tick Greenhouse and send your form to us.

For more information about Sunshine Garden Products call 01420 511500 or visit [www.sunshine-garden-products.com](http://www.sunshine-garden-products.com)



## GO POTTY WITH SEEDS

**S**uttons Flower of the Year for 2004, the *Novella Lavatera*, is the first dwarf pink Lavatera and it's perfect for pots on the patio. Thanks to Suttons, DN has 15 packets of Novella seeds to give away. To make growing them in containers even easier, winners will also receive sachets of Suttons Water Storage Crystals and Controlled Release Fertiliser, which when mixed with the compost in containers, significantly reduces the need for watering and feeding. Each prize is worth £5.89 so for your chance to win, tick Seeds in the entry form.

For more information about Suttons products call 0870 220 0606 or visit [www.suttons-seeds.co.uk](http://www.suttons-seeds.co.uk)

**SUTTONS**  
Sowing & Growing Since 1806

## PROTECT YOUR BADGE

**A**re you sick of always carrying around a dog-eared blue badge or driving licence? Protect-A-Badge has introduced two handmade leather wallets with guilt corner pieces specially designed for your badge or licence. The Badge Protector has transparent pockets so your badge and disk remain safe and clean yet easily accessible, whilst the Licence Protector offers additional transparent pocket space to carry a motoring organisation membership card as well as other valuable documents such as insurance and MOT certificates. You can even have the wallets personalised.

DN has five sets – a Badge Protector and a Licence Protector – to give away. Each set is worth £19.95, so tick Wallets in the entry form and send it to our freepost address for your chance to win.

For more information about Protect-A-Badge call 01476 574383.



## LAST MONTH'S WINNER

Winner of the trip to Glasgow in the March issue was Mr Owen Davies from Carmarthenshire.

**to enter** Tick the competition circle below, add your details, and send FOR

FREE to *Disability Now*, Freepost WD4323, London N7 9BR, or you can fax it on 020 7619 7331, or e-mail the details to: [elizabeth.cowley@scope.org.uk](mailto:elizabeth.cowley@scope.org.uk)

☐ Flower show

☐ Greenhouse

☐ Seeds

☐ Wallets



### terms & conditions

• closing date for entrants: 21.05.04 • Entrants must be over 18 • No proof of purchase required • UK entrants only • No cash alternatives •

Winners notified by post • Editor's decision is final • Special offers not open to DN staff or associates • Winners may be announced in DN • In association with Royal Horticultural Society, Sunshine Garden Products, Suttons and Protect-A-Badge. We may use your name and address for further marketing purposes. Please tick the box if you do not wish your details to be included ☐

## DN next month



London Wheelchair Marathon 2003 winner  
Francesca Porcellato

All the best news, views,  
jobs and offers.  
On sale 31 May.

### FLIGHT RIGHTS CAMPAIGN

Access Code of Practice one year on

### GET IN GEAR

DN's 28-page motoring supplement includes a comparison of insurance costs for disabled drivers and a fresh look at merging disabled drivers' associations

### LONDON WHEELCHAIR MARATHON

Wins and spins of 2004

### Watch out for the competition

## NEWSAGENT ORDER FORM

(Please complete and take to your newsagent)

Please reserve me a regular copy of *Disability Now* until further notice ☐

Please deliver a copy of *Disability Now* to my home address ☐

Name: .....

Address: .....

Postcode: .....

Signature: .....

To the newsagent: *Disability Now*, ISSN 0958-4676, is published monthly by Scope, 6 Market Road, London N7 9PW. It is distributed by MMC Ltd, Octagon House, White Hart Meadows, Ripley, Woking, Surrey GU23 6HR. Tel: +44 (0)1483 211222, fax: +44 (0)1483 224541.



**DIG IN!**  
5 page gardening special

05  
9 770958 467026

**DN**

disabilitynow

20th anniversary

£1.80 May 2004

**Fair play**

Jeff's ideal life

**House  
adjourned**

The end for  
disabled people's  
parliament?

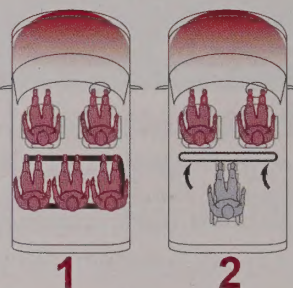
**Hanging on  
the telephone**

Helplines under pressure

# Our commitment

- Quality of design
- Occupant safety
- Ease of accessibility
- Durability
- Value

The all new 'Dual Purpose' seating system available on the Renault Kangoo & Citroen Berlingo



Lewis Reed as a specialist manufacturer of Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles, can offer some of the most attractive deals around for safe, stylish and affordable accessible transport. We also offer finance (details supplied on request) and part exchange facilities.

For information call 0845 345 0127 or visit [www.lewisreedgroup.co.uk](http://www.lewisreedgroup.co.uk)

**Selection of quality used/ex-demo models all available to view on our website**

**Renault Kangoo**  
Lowered floor/ramp access  
1.2P/1.5D/1.6P



**Citroen Berlingo**  
Lowered floor/ramp access  
1.4P/1.9D/1.6iP



**Toyota Hiace**  
Ramp or lift access  
2.5TD



**Volkswagen T5**  
Ramp or lift access  
1.9TDi SWB



**Renault Traffic**  
Ramp or lift access  
1.9dCi (100)



## Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles

We welcome visits to our showroom & production facility

**LEWIS  
REED**

Call 0845 345 0127 (local rate) or visit [www.lewisreedgroup.co.uk](http://www.lewisreedgroup.co.uk)

Part Exchange

Free Delivery

Finance Available

Motability Accredited